



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County



MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 6, 2016 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
1st Floor Conference Room, Miller Building
2825 3rd Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

Call to order: Ed Gulick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Members present: Christopher Cook, City Council; Kristi Drake, City Council; Doug Enderson, County Board; Ed Gulick, Planning Board; Amber Sundsted, City Council; Jeffrey Butts, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator; Scott Walker, Transportation Planning Coordinator

Meeting Minutes: Doug motioned and Chris seconded approval of the October BPAC minutes. In the discussion, Kristi pointed out “through” needed to be changed to “threw”, as well as some clarifying changes in language about families who move here and setting up a meeting.

Ed noted that “B” should be capitalized for Billings, under Complete Streets, and there should be clarification on the highest percentage change by adding “compared to other facilities.” There was discussion on what it meant and on a percentage basis – when comparing sidewalks, bike lanes, automobile lanes and other facilities – the City has added a higher *percentage* of bike lanes compared to other, i.e., the community had one bike lane in 2002 and now has more than 20 miles.

Public comment: There was no public comment and the Committee suggested members of the community should provide their name and address. These should be included in the minutes of public comment. Jeffrey asked Scott if there would be a problem in doing that and there was not a problem.

Bike Staples: Kristi updated the Committee on the bike parking meeting in November. At this meeting, the CBD (Central Business District) boundary for the downtown bike staples was decided. Jeffrey is going to come back to the group with locations for the bike staples in early January. An exact date has not been decided because Kristi is still waiting to hear from a couple people on when they can join the meet.

Update

The general idea is that if a business wants to have a rack, there will be a general location in where they will go. We need to make sure they do not cause problems elsewhere. This will still be a type of “pilot”, including a process. For example, if somebody wants a rack it may come to the Planning Division first and, then, over to Engineering.

There are still questions about the permitting process and whether or not the staples will be owned by the City, an encroachment or another approach. We also need to look at funding. Once the CBD is “pilot” has been functioning it may be possible to extend outside the city center.

Members of the Committee asked about advertising and suggested perhaps an “adopt-a-rack” that will be permanent. Other solutions could include pulling together funds and having them entirely owned by the City. If people do not want a bike rack, we will probably use existing avenues for notifying and disputing installations. Additional considerations include maintenance plus potential changing land-use.

The Committee will be kept up-to-date on the bike staples. The goal is to have the project complete for spring and apply for a grant through People for Bikes.

Openings:
County & Renewal

There will be three people leaving with expiring terms: Chris, Doug and Ed. Ed has expressed interest in renewing for another term (*note: Planning Board approved Ed’s renewal until 2019 at the December 13, 2016 regular meeting*). Doug’s absence will make three open County spots. Chris is termed out (*Note: City Council appointed an individual to represent the City at the December 12, 2016 meeting*).

There has been little interest from people who live in the County. This is likely due to a small area between the edge of the City and MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) boundary. The Bylaws currently have term limits to align with the City’s code. Members of the Committee met with the Commissioners to get their feedback on how to best represent their needs.

Commissioner Ostlund suggested removing term limits. Commissioner Reno suggested a point system with preference for somebody who meets geographic requirements with less points for within the City. Another suggestion was that perhaps people who live within the City could represent

the County until a qualified candidate is appointed from the County. The Commissioners will speak with incoming and new Commissioners for ideas before presenting thorough recommendations.

The simplest solution would be to remove term limits from the County, though it may slow the introduction of new ideas into the Committee. One person has applied from the County. He lives in Lockwood and also sits on the Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District's advisory committee.

Jeffrey presented all of the board members with a certificate of appreciation that was signed by the Mayor, Thomas Hanel.

Action Item

Doug will send a copy of the Bylaws for reference to Ed and Jeffrey.

This will be put on the next meeting as discussion item to potentially remove term limits in the County and possible other changes, depending on the input received from the County Commissioners.

Annual Report:

First Discussion

Jeffrey presented a list of all the agenda items on a Power Point presentation. He pointed the topics, which had more than one discussion and includes bike parking, bike-ped coordinator, funding and goals, among other items.

The Committee discussed the importance of focusing on, perhaps, three key take-a-ways and one large. The largest thing of importance for the Council to know is that the funding source for trails has changed and is much different than before. It may also be a time to present some potential funding options and prices – depending on what is or is not included. This could be especially true with items such as bicycle boulevards (neighborhood greenways), which can have different levels of investment.

Bike parking may be another take-a-way with framing it around bicycle security of something similar. The Committee will likely avoid discussion of Complete Streets and set a timeframe of April-May to give the presentation.

This will be on the next agenda.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 31, 2016.

Adjourn:

Ed adjourned the meeting at 12:40 pm.