



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES



Tuesday, June 26, 2018 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
1st Floor Conference Room, Miller Building
2825 3rd Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

APPROVED BY A MOTION ON JULY 24, 2018.

Call to order: Ed Gulick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:31.

Members present: Zac Hassler, County; Amber Sundsted, City Council

Others present: Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner; Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Nicole Cromwell, Zoning Coordinator; Dave Green, Planner II

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**
None
- b. **Comments on items on the non-public agenda items –** None

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of: May 22, 2018: BPAC was not able to approve the minutes due to lack of quorum. Amber's last name is not spelled correctly on the minutes.

Old Business:

Annual BPAC Presentation to the Governing Bodies – Ed gave a presentation to Planning Board that went smoothly. He didn't receive any comments from board. The next presentation is at the City Council Work Session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 2. The presentation to County Commissioners has not been set yet.

Bike Racks and Application Process – Additional racks were being put out without an application from the business. The application is working and currently there are two racks put out. The Planning Division or BPAC may want to talk to the County and see if they can replace the non-compliant rack in front of court house. In order to buy more racks, the City, BPAC and/or other stakeholders need to figure out ways to fund more bike parking. The money that comes in for bike racks is kept in a City account.

New Business:

Project Re:Code – Nicole Cromwell, Zoning Coordinator and Dave Green, Planner II, presented on Project Re:Code. Currently, the goals and guidelines for 2016 Growth Plan cannot be achieved without a code update.

Four Working Groups are working on specific issues:

- County Issues Working Group
- Urban Issues Working Group
- Sign Code Working Group
- Landscape Working Group

There are some things that the City/County does not currently have a code for, such as a town center in Lockwood, additional housing choices, and services in neighborhoods. In addition, there are inconsistent development regulations for similar properties. Off street parking is not currently regulated.

The Planning Division has hired a consultant team led by SAFEBuilt Studio. The team also includes Codametrics and High Plains Architects. The code update will be completed in four phases starting with outreach, a code audit, draft revisions, and then the full draft will go through the public adoption process.

BPAC members and the public can stay involved by bookmarking Project Re:Code webpage, signing up to get notices from City, following the Billings Planning & Community Services Department on Facebook, or by emailing Nicole Cromwell, Zoning Coordinator, at cromwelln@ci.billings.mt.us.

Questions:

How do MDT routes that don't meet city standards play into zoning?

A: Every time a project comes through the state, the local entity has to remind them of local standards. In some places across the country, the City has to follow subdivision regulations.

Is there a schedule for meeting with different stakeholder groups? Is there a way for BPAC to be heard? Ed Gulick, BPAC Chairman, wants to talk about minimum requirements for short term and long term bike parking, and the opportunity to off-set vehicle parking with bike parking.

A: The steering committee will be meeting once a quarter. The consultant will be back probably July 19 and 20 to meet with groups that she did get to meet with yet. Nicole offered that BPAC could meet with the consultant. Currently, bike parking is added ad-hock as a requirement of approval. Nicole suggested finding a time on afternoon of the 19th or morning of the 20th to meet with the consultant.

How else could zoning support active transportation?

If there are more flexible standards for lot frontage, that helps controls sprawl and supports active transportation. The Landscaping Working Group wants more street trees.

Is there a place in the code that requires boulevards?

Subdivision regulations and site development require boulevards with a 5 ft. minimum width. Zoning could say that all streets have to have street trees and that the trees have to be a certain width apart.

Why do you think there is pushback for neighborhood commercial? We say we want it but if it comes up there is a lot of push-back.

A: Current commercial zones do not allow for Poly Food Basket type store. Current zones allow too many options that might allow for something other than a Poly Food Basket type place.

How could zone change affect property taxes and value of property on "strodes" like Broadwater Avenue and Grand Avenue?

A: Zoning is not configured into property taxes. The appraiser will look to see if the current zoning matches the use. This does have an effect on property value. Homes on Broadwater Avenue are assessed as residential. Residential uses can be mixed into commercial areas but it is not encouraged. Currently downtown property owners pay the highest fees for storm water and arterial street fees but it should be opposite if the goal is to encourage infill.

Utility Bill Trail Funding Proposal – This topic is on hold.

BUILD Grant – Lora Mattox, Transportation Planner, presented the idea of applying for BUILD Grant for Marathon Loop and Inner Belt Loop. The grant award is up to \$25 million. There are a number of local matches that can be used. Public Works has offered to pay for a consultant to write the grant. HDR might be writing the grant and may wave half of the fee for the City of Billings. BPAC may be asked for a letter of support. Lora and Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, will be providing assistance for this. All proposed routes have been vetted and approved.

Transportation Alternatives applications are also coming up and Lora and Elyse will be writing them, and will try to put in for Bike Boulevards, etc. The Billings Area Unified Work Program is coming up, and Lora suggested developing a bike boulevard plan. BPAC was interested in talking to Traffic Control Board about this. It was also suggested that the Planning Division should apply for funding for pedestrian bridge to Four Dances.

People for bikes- Elyse shared ideas of applying for funding for portable bike corrals or bike parking in parking garages. The group decided to try to think of more robust idea if possible before letter of intent is due, otherwise no application will be submitted.

Other Business:

- **Next BPAC meeting – July 24, 2018**

Future Agenda Items:

- Utility Bill Trail Funding
- BUILD Grant update
- Park Master Plan-waiting for clarification from Kristi Drake, BPAC member.

Adjournment at 12:55