



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES



APPROVED BY A MOTION DECEMBER 4, 2018.

Tuesday, September 25, 2018 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 11:33 a.m.

Members present: Jane Van Dyk, City Council; Kristi Drake, City Council; Liana Susott, County; Amber Sundsted, City Council; DJ Clark, County.

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Members of the Public: Melissa Henderson, Community Health Improvement Manager, Healthy By Design; Morgan Miller, Prevention Health Specialist, RiverStone Health.

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –** Melissa Henderson, Community Health Improvement Manager, introduced Morgan Miller, Prevention Health Specialist. Morgan will be working on Safe Routes to School and will be attending BPAC meetings to see how RiverStone Health and Healthy By Design can support BPAC.
- b. **Comments on items on the non-public agenda items –**

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of: August 28, 2018: Jane Van Dyk, BPAC member, motioned to approve the August minutes and Amber Sundsted, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Motion Recommendation. Approval of Letter of Support for Utility Bill Funding – Kristi Drake, BPAC Vice-Chair, shared that Billings TrailNet and the City will present to City Council on October 1 about the need for trail funding. They will ask for assessment to the community that would be opt out. The assessment would be \$24/year for everyone including businesses. City Council can choose to put it on the Utility Bill as a donation or possibly as an assessment on property taxes. The whole issue will be presented on October 1, with possible action on the 9th. Jane said that the West End task group expressed some opposition to opt out.

For the letter of support, Ed Gulick, BPAC Chair, suggested that having one letter of support would be sufficient as it lays out a proposed method of funding. Kristi wants to add that MDT has said that TA funds will not be awarded this year. D.J. suggested explaining what Park District One is in the letter. Opt out is two words. The wording should also be changed to assessment or optional donation rather than Utility Bill Fee. The group liked Ed's suggested changes.

Motion Recommendation. Approval of Letter of Support for Montana Tourism Grant Bike Parking application – Ed commented on the letter and made a few changes. Kristi motioned to approve the letter of support as it has been edited for the MT tourism grant application. Jane seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Member, George Moncure, wants to start a bike rack program and grade racks and make a Facebook page. There is an even greater need for bike racks as parking meters have disappeared.

Discussion Update. 3 ft. Passing Law – The 3 foot passing law did not pass in the last legislature. Bike Walk MT is planning to sponsor it again. Even if enforcement is not possible in all cases, there is an educational component. Ed suggested educating lawmakers and say why BPAC wants them to support this. The letter could say that would BPAC would push for a local ordinance if the law was not passed at the state level. Amber said that if there is money spent on the effort then it is lobbying. If there was a group of bills, then maybe that it would be ok to spend money on an event talking about a set of bills. Amber suggested the best thing would be to provide written information.

Ed proposed that after the election, BPAC should issue a letter to state lawmakers in early December. They should also find out what other issues are going to be presented. BPAC could invite Doug Haberman or Kathy Aragon to learn what else is going to the legislature.

Discussion Update. 1st Avenue N – MDT is going to reconstruct 1st Ave. N. D.J. Clark, BPAC Member, shared that there was a question about if there should be bike lanes or not on 1st Ave. N. There is some question about how to move forward with the suggestion from Public Works being that 2nd and 3rd Aves. North should have bike lanes instead of 1st Ave. N. Amber said that from a BPAC perspective it is discouraging that plans are not being followed and there is not much hope for other projects. D.J. shared that the process is not over and there would be opportunity for input from BPAC. Amber suggested that it was important to say that if there was a plan it should be followed. Jane suggested saying BPAC is disappointed that there will not be bike lanes on 1st, and ask when will 2nd and 3rd will go through. The group suggested waiting a while to take action. D.J. suggested talking to Lora and Scott before writing a letter. D.J. will reach out to them about it.

Discussion Update. Downtown Traffic Study - Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, shared that the consultants have been collecting data for about 3 months. The timeline for the study goes through February 2019. During the first meeting the study area was defined and compared to other downtowns. The consultants shared data results they have so far including that there is enough roadway capacity, low waiting times at peak hours, and an incomplete bike network. Alternatives for downtown were discussed.

New Business:

Discussion Update. Collecting and processing input from the public. – Last time, BPAC members talked about having a website where comments could be submitted. Elyse shared the form from the City website that citizens can use to report comments. Having one additional field added that is bicycle related would be helpful. Kristi gets people calling in about gravel or trees breaking up sidewalk. Elyse will send out screen shots of the forms to BPAC members to let them review the forms. She will also investigate if the City gets comments on trails and where the comments go.

Discussion update. Strategies to recruit new board members. Kristi wants to see if one of her board members will apply. She will talk to her board and see if someone will apply. She also suggested having RiverStone Health or Healthy By Design at the table. BPAC needs to look at by-laws and see what could be added.

Other Business:

- **Next BPAC meeting – October 23, 2018**

Future Agenda Items: Potential expansion to appointed members.

Adjournment at 1:07 p.m.

December meeting: 11:30 a.m. on December 4th. This meeting will replace the scheduled November and December meetings.