BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 23, 2019 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am
1st Floor Conference Room, Miller Building
2825 3rd Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

DRAFT

Call to order: Ed Gulick, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

Members present: Jane Van Dyk, City; Kristi Drake, City; Rose Cook, City; Liana Susott, County.

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner. Guests: None.

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.

c. **Online Comments received about bicycle and pedestrian issues –** Elyse received a question from Krista Hertz about whether or not there will be sidewalks constructed on the west side of 54th St. W at the intersection with Rimrock Road. There is a project scheduled for this summer to put this sidewalk in, although total scope will depend on how competitive bids are. Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, put Krista in touch with the project manager for the project.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 26, 2019: Jane Van Dyk, BPAC Member, motioned to approve the minutes, Rose Cook, BPAC member, seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Motion Recommendation. Inclusion of a permanent ex-officio (non-voting) Billings TrailNet member in BPAC membership. Rose motioned to adopt the draft by-law language. Liana seconded. In the draft language, senior citizens was changed to seniors. The motion passed with Ed, Jane, Rose, and Liana voting in favor of the motion and Kristi Drake abstaining.

Presentation. Trail Funding Mechanism Update.

Kristi has no updates at this time, but will meet with Dave Mumford later this week.

Presentation. Bike Parking Update.
Elyse shared the pictures of the bikes racks being manufactured with BPAC members. BPAC members wrote a thank-you card to Atomic Industries who have donated a significant portion of the cost of the racks. Elyse shared that there have been four pre-applications for racks and that there will be 39 racks available in total. The racks should be ready in mid-to-late May and BPAC members expressed interest in having a ribbon cutting.

Ed shared that he has talked to Montague's Jewelers and Billings Barbiere who are both interested in having one of the new racks. He also suggested reaching out to the Northern Hotel.

New Business

Presentation. 2018 Trail and Bikeway Counts. Elyse handed out maps with the bikeway and trail counts on them. BPAC members reviewed them and asked some questions related to the counts. Elyse will check on if the tube counters distinguish between bikes and cars and how long temporary counters stay in each location. She will also check to see if the counts are online. BPAC members also asked if it would be possible to get more trail counters. They suggested having them at places where there maybe future trail connections, like on the Skyline Trail east of Zimmerman Trail.

Ed also suggested that there be data collection over time for the bicycle boulevard to see how that has affected bicycle traffic.

Discussion Update. 6th Ave. N. Improvements making a safer connection for people walking and biking from the Heights to Downtown was pushed back in the CIP until 2024. This is due to changes the Montana Department of Transportation will be making at the Main St./6th Ave. N intersection. At the last meeting, BPAC members thought about asking Public Works to implement a temporary solution like a jersey barrier along 6th Ave. N to N 13th. Increased sweeping of the sidewalk might help in the interim. BPAC decided against writing a letter requesting a temporary solution and instead decided to draft a letter to say that they understand why the project was pushed back, but to restate that this is an important project and they would like to be involved when design occurs. They will also suggest that the bike lanes on N 13th be in place by 2024.

Discussion Update. Annual BPAC presentation to Governing Bodies.
In addition to presentation at City Council, County Commissioners, and Planning Board, BPAC members also suggested having a presence at Chamber Trails Committee, Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT), the School Board, neighborhood taskforces, the Rimrunners, and the Billings Association of Realtors.

BPAC members discussed topics they would like to include in their presentation including: the need for dedicated funding for trails, bicycle boulevards, link to the Heights, trail counts, the Downtown Transportation Plan, and bike racks. BPAC members talked about being more succinct with City Council as many members have heard the presentation in previous years.

This topic will be on the agenda again and BPAC members will start planning dates for the presentations.

Other Business:

Future Agenda Items:
Trail Funding Mechanism
Status of bike racks
Downtown transportation plan-roll out for public input period.

Meeting adjourned at 1:08.