



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Billings & Yellowstone County
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 24, 2022 MEETING TIME: 11:30 am

1st Floor Conference Room of 2825 3rd Ave. N

Live Coverage was available here: <https://www.facebook.com/Billings-Planning-Community-Services-Department-1738982159659260/> Recording is also available on same Facebook page link.

DRAFT

Call to order: Anna O’Donnell, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:33 am.

Members present: Dave Coppock, Planning Board; Nikki Zimmer, County; Joan Schey, County; Margy Bonner, City; Kristi Drake, City.

Others present: Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner; Kolten Knatterud, President of Billings TrailNet; John Halverson, Planner at Sanderson Stewart.

Public Comment Period:

- a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and request to add items to future agendas –**
Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, will send police data to BPAC when she receives it.
- b. **Online comments and comments received by the Active Transportation Planner –**
The only comment Elyse received was that the pedestrian activated light at 13th is not working. She passed this concern onto Engineering and will follow up with them on a timeline for fixing it.

Motion. Approval of the meeting minutes of December 6, 2022: During review of the minutes, Joan Schey, BPAC, member said that Kristi Drake’s comment under public comment should say that the County blocked off the road in the Indian Cliffs neighborhood. Margy Bonner, BPAC member, moved to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes as corrected. Kristi Drake, BPAC member, seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

BPAC annual presentation to the governing bodies

The group reviewed the presentation and made changes to the presentation during the discussion.

New Business:

Billings TrailNet future projects committee

Kolten Knatterud, 2023 President of Billings TrailNet, gave a presentation on Billings TrailNet’s future projects committee. Over the last year, one of the main initiatives has been to get Kristi less busy and trying to give more work to board members. Through that effort, they developed 4 active committees–fundraising, events, outreach, and the future projects committee.

The Future Projects committee has been trying to emphasize relationships as important to accomplish goals. They are having quarterly meetings with Planning, Public Works, and the Commissioners. These are typically relationship building meetings without a specific ask. They are trying to make better coordination between groups to work towards a common goal and are trying to work a little more hand in hand with BPAC. They will ask to get on the BPAC agenda quarterly. Also, they welcome people to join their committees.

One of the immediate goals is to get a better priority list so they know what to advocate for.

Margy Bonner, BPAC member, asked when the Skyline Trail will be constructed. The goal is that it will be constructed during the 2023 construction season.

The Future Projects Committee is looking at combining projects from various plans and lists into one place. Now ranking them with 8 yes or no questions such as connectivity, recreational, grant funding, etc. to rank the projects.

Jason Wood application

Joan motioned that BPAC recommends Jason Wood to the open County BPAC seat. Kristi seconded. During discussion, members said they were happy with his application and think he would be a great candidate. The motion passed unanimously.

Elyse Monat, Active Transportation Planner, will find a previous letter of recommendation for a candidate and will update it for the new BPAC chair to sign.

Elections

Anna O'Donnell, current BPAC Chair, nominated Nikki Zimmer as Chair for 2023. Nikki accepted the nomination. Margy seconded the nomination. All voted in favor.

Margy nominated Anna as Vice-Chair. Anna accepted. Dave seconded. All voted in favor.

Letters of support for grant projects

Elyse noted that she had made changes to the letter of support for the Rose Park trail based on cost estimates that came in above what was expected. She explained the section between 21st and 22nd Sts. W would likely be bid as an additive alternate as construction costs may not allow construction of that section given the available funds. Margy moved that BPAC approve the draft letters in support of Rose Park and Arnold Drain trails. Joan seconded. During discussion, a couple of edits were made to the letters. The group voted to approve the letters with edits. All voted in favor with the exception of Kristi who abstained as one of the letters was submitted by Billings TrailNet where she is Executive Director.

Vista West Development –

John Halverson, a planner from Sanderson Stewart, shared information about the Vista West development, the zone change, and the associated variance in the Vista West development. He shared that there are two street accesses planned for Rocky Vista Way. There will be pedestrian access on Bell Ave. Council will decide if there will be access vehicular access to Bell Ave. or Obie Ln. John pointed out that the development will be within a 10-minute walk of many every day needs including the new medical school, shopping, etc.

Margy moved that BPAC send a letter to the City Council indicating that because of their focus on connectivity that they oppose the variance. Anna seconded. All voted in favor.

Margy moved that a BPAC member go to Council to speak against the variance on February 13th to speak on the limited issue of opposing the variance because of connectivity. Kristi seconded. All voted in favor.

Margy will draft the letter and Elyse will send the BPAC letterhead to Margy.

Other Business:

BPAC members requested that any emails needing a response have “need response/action needed” in the subject line.

Future agenda items:

None

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting. Joan Schey seconded, all voted in favor.