



MEETING SUMMARY
Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting Agenda
September 15th, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.
301 W. 2nd Street City Hall, Staff Bull Pen, Room 1029

PARTICIPANTS:

Christopher Stanton – BAC Chair
Tom Thayer – BAC Vice Chair
David Orr – BAC
Sam Day-Woodruff - Alt BAC
Rebecca Brenneman – Alt BAC
Mike Kase – BAC

Chris LeBlanc - BAC
Sophia Benner – BAC
Tom Wald – Alt BAC
Stanton Truxillo – Alt BAC
Tommy Eden – BAC

GUESTS:

John Woodley
Zach Hollandsworth
Pete Wall
Adam Gregory
Rich Hollenbeck
Sounthaly Outhavong
Gonzalo Camacho

Michael Cospers
Patricia Schaub
Miller Nutter
Thomas Butler
Hillary Anderson
Mike Sledge

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Dierenfield, ATD
Officer Mitchell, APD
LeAnn Ishcomber, PARD
Rob Grotty, PWD

Marissa Monroy, ATD
Richard McHale, ARR
Nadia Barrera, PWD
De'Anne Williams, PARD

1. Introductions – 6:00 to 6:05

2. Citizen Communication – 6:05 to 6:15

Mike Kase, Resident: Showed a picture of a blocked bike lane along S. Lamar, near the intersection of Threadgill and Gibson, (there was a no parking sign in place). Mr. Kase hopes the City will examine this situation and make improvements.

3. Review and Approval of August Minutes – 6:15 to 6:20

Tom Thayer moved to approve. David Orr seconded. Minutes approved with one correction on page two, line two - change "motor vehicles" (line 2) to moving vehicle.

4. Items from BAC – 6:20 to 7:50

- Discussion and Possible Action: Electric Bicycles on Trails, Facilitator Chris LeBlanc

Mr. LeBlanc related information that the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) considers electric bikes as a motor vehicle, so they are not allowed on urban trails.

Tom Wald had previously proposed a motion that e-bikes should be given the same permissions as regular bikes.

LeAnn Ishcomber, Park Ranger Program Manager for the City of Austin, Department of Parks and Recreation (PARC) explained that PARC developed a working group with APD and other departments to discuss the code regarding restrictions of a motor vehicle in a park. The group met in August, after staff became aware of the issue.

Ms. Ishcomber explained that there are certain trails/parks where there are concerns between regular bicyclists and pedestrians, notwithstanding e-bikes. There are also concerns about the speed limit of e-bikes. A park rule is in place (not a city ordinance) that the speed limit of a hike/bike trail is not to exceed 10 mph. PARC also has other concerns about vendors for e-vehicles (segways, e-bikes, etc) being present at park, when there is not any City staff to regulate this issue. PARC's biggest concern is that this could become a major safety issue. Ms. Ishcomber clarified that everything that is an ADA-vehicle is excluded from this rule.

Group discussion centered around the need to better define what an electronic bicycle is and where they are permitted. Further clarification was provided as to which areas are considered trails and which are considered right-of-way. For example, the Boardwalk, Roberta Crenshaw bridge and the Pfluger bridge are both considered right-of-way.

Tom moved to continue discussion at a Technical Sub-Committee. If members are interested in chairing the sub-committee, they can notify Christopher Stanton or Laura Dierenfield through email.

Discussion and Possible Action: **Non-Bicycle Mobility Devices & ADA Access**, Facilitator: Christopher Stanton

Mr. Stanton explained that in the course of launching a project where seniors will be riding adult trikes, he discovered that many people use assisted mobility devices in bike lanes instead of sidewalks. Many of these people explained that the sidewalks are uneven and that it is easier on the devices and the people who use them to ride these vehicles in bike lanes. Mr. Stanton said he does not have a problem with this situation, but would like a clear stance from the City on this issue.

Mike Kase said he also does not have a problem with this situation, but wants to make sure users of the bike lane travel in the right direction.

Hillary Anderson is also supportive of Mr. Stanton's stance on this issue.

Laura Dierenfield, with ATD, explained that the Sidewalk Master Plan is underway and that it would probably be beneficial to have a presentation about the Sidewalk Master Plan.

- Discussion and Possible Action: **Maintenance Budgeting**, Facilitator: David Orr

Mr. Orr showed a presentation reviewing his idea for maintenance budgeting. It included four main aspects: 1) striping, 2) sweeping, 3) trimming; and 4) mowing the edges of the urban trail network.

Rob Grotty, Public Works Department

Mr. Grotty explained that budget concerns are a big issue when it comes to maintenance. An in-house crew of 8 people is responsible for maintaining rights of ways all over the City. PWD is working on a contract to address maintenance needs. Mr. Grotty also explained that per City code, residents are also responsible for certain maintenance.

BAC members expressed concern that there is not enough money in the maintenance schedule. Mike Kase wants a more proactive approach to maintenance. Hillary Anderson gave thanks to City staff for their work.

Mr. Gonzalo Camacho suggested there's not an actual bicycle maintenance program that exists in any city. Mr. Camacho suggested the City of Austin implement one.

Mr. Grotty asked BAC members to submit a list of hot spots the need regular vegetative maintenance.

Richard McHale, Division Manager, Litter Abatement with Austin Resource Recovery (ARR)

Mr. McHale explained the maintenance schedule for City crews when it comes to sweeping. In total, ARR sweeps 600 tons of debris and covers 52,000 miles of streets annually. They rely heavily on 311 requests. He explained that the City is investing in two sweepers for protected bike lanes, one of which will be parked downtown. The sweeper will have to be transported through a trailer. ARR will be working with code compliance to take care of hot spots. The City does not sweep in the UT area, state highways, or county highways. PWD does have a sweeping crew, but they mainly deal with resurfacing projects. Mr. McHale also explained that ARR is looking at the policy of placement of trash/recycling carts, because sometimes they are on sidewalks, other times in bike lanes, and other times in the middle of the street.

Mike Kase proposed a resolution: "The BAC recommends budgets be allocated for all existing bicycle infrastructures based upon best practices. The BAC also recommends that as new bicycle infrastructure is developed, budget monies be allocated for maintenance."

Laura Dierenfield, with ATD, explained that she was very encouraged by the discussion and looks to work more closely with other departments in developing a proactive approach to maintenance, but cautioned the solution will not happen overnight.

The BAC asked that staff come back with a response in six months.

Discussion and Possible Action: **Resolution on Mobility 35,**
Facilitator: Tom Wald

Tom Wald explained his resolution on proposed improvements to I-35. Resolution was distributed electronically. Mr. Wald led the group through a discussion on the resolution of the draft and its detailed nature. Mike Kase moved to pass the resolution. Tom Thayer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Items from Staff – 7:30 to 7:50

- Formation of a Membership and Nomination Subcommittee

Ms. Dierenfield explained that per the BAC bylaws, a membership and nomination subcommittee must be formed in preparation for the annual elections. Ms. Brenneman, Mr. Thayer and Ms. Benner agreed to serve on the Subcommittee.

- Announcement: Apply to become a BAC Member

Ms. Dierenfield encouraged the audience to submit their applications to become a BAC member and to share the information with others who may be interested.

6. Announcements/Adjourn – 7:50 – 8:00

Ms. Dierenfield shared that there will be a public meeting on Shady Lane on Thursday at 6pm at Allan Elementary School, 4900 Gonzales Street.