



Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Council Conference Room– 200 Old Bernal Avenue

June 17, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Pearce called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members: Ursula Goldstein, Melissa Ott, Herb Ritter, William Rose; and Chairperson Jennifer Pearce

Commissioners Absent: Jeff Durban and Jeff Grell

Staff Present: Mike Tassano, Traffic Engineering; Janis Stephen, Traffic Engineering; and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

3. AGENDA AMENDMENTS

There were none. Chairperson Pearce welcomed Herb Ritter to the Committee as the Parks and Recreation Commission replacement for Jerry Pentin.

4. MINUTES

Ms. Stephen advised that she had checked and determined that a quorum of two Committee members who were in attendance at the February 18th meeting was needed to approve the February 18th meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Chairperson Pearce, to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2009 meeting. The motion was approved. Committee members Goldstein and Ott abstained.

Correction to April 20, 2009 minutes - page 7, para.4: change to read: ...It was suggested by Ms. Pearce that Ms. Goldstein email this information to staff who would in turn email it to members of the Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Rose, to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2009 meeting as corrected. The motion was approved.

5. MATTERS INITIATED BY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE

Jim Ott – “Be the Change Cyclists” Commuter Club – provided information about this new bicycle commuter club that is encouraging people to get out of their cars and bicycle to work. He encouraged members of the Committee to join the club and advised that when members cycle to work, school, or for errands they notify him and he tracks the number of miles cycled and the gasoline saved. Joining the club is as easy as emailing the number of miles cycled to Mr. Ott at jott@unclecu.org.

6. MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

A. Election of Vice Chairperson

Ms. Stephen advised that since Jerry Pentin had resigned from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee it was necessary to nominate and select a new Vice-Chairperson.

Ms. Goldstein made a motion to nominate Mr. Rose to serve as the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee’s Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pearce. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

B. Review and Approval of the Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan

Ms. Stephen noted that at the April 20, 2009 meeting the Committee had commented on the Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan and several members had provided additional comments after the meeting. The Master Plan has been updated to include all of these comments as well as comments that were provided by attendees of the BPAC workshop, Pleasanton residents, and staff. Staff has reviewed the revised Master Plan and is recommending the Committee approve this document. The Master Plan will then be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council. Ms. Stephen advised that every effort was made to accommodate requested changes, while being mindful of the scope, budget and schedule of the project.

Ms. Goldstein confirmed with staff that two off-street trail access gates, one located near Commerce Drive and one located near intersection of Gulfstream Street and West Las Positas Boulevard, which had been dropped from the Plan, would in fact be added back. She also commented on the fact that the Existing and Planned Community Trails map included in chapter 1, the legend showed a solid line for proposed trails, when it should in fact be a dotted line.

Mr. Rose indicated he was having some difficulty getting his mind wrapped around such a huge document and felt it was something that would most likely continue to evolve. He was especially concerned with Prioritization as discussed in Chapter 7, but was in agreement in approving the Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan as presented.

Ms. Ott agreed with all comments and indicated she was excited to have the Plan approved.

Mr. Ritter asked that his name be added to the Plan as the current Parks and Recreation Commission representative. He also wanted to ensure that the Plan was consistent with the Trails Master Plan and agreed with Mr. Rose that the “Prioritization” section was a hot-button item, but felt that this Committee could continue to make recommendations since this is a working document that will continue to be updated.

Ms. Pearce questioned whether this Committee would see the draft mitigated negative declaration and was unsure how the Committee could approve the Master Plan without seeing any EIR documents. Mr. Tassano advised that a copy of the environmental documents would be provided to the Committee.

Ms. Pearce indicated that Fig.4-5 indicates the bus stop in a priority pedestrian area, but is not easily accessible and she would like to see changes made in this area in the future. She also noted there was no mention of having a sidewalk included near the bus stop that is adjacent to the hospital. Mr. Tassano noted that this Master Plan still needed to be presented to two other Commissions and all of their comments and those of this Committee would need to be incorporated into the Final Master Plan. Ms. Pearce additionally pointed out a typographical change that should be made in F-4, pages 224-225, to Snowdrop Circle.

A motion was made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Ms. Goldstein, to approve the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan as presented, with all of the Committee’s comments being taken into consideration. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

7. MATTERS INITATED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Rose had questions regarding a grant amount for the East Bay Regional Park District. Mr. Tassano advised that he believed it to be a “matching” grant that had been originally set up with the cities of Dublin and Livermore.

Mr. Rose suggested the Committee consider setting up a table at the Farmers Markets or First Wednesday events to provide information and let the public know about the Committee and what it is endeavoring to do. Ms. Goldstein agreed this would be helpful, since she felt there was a definite lack of public involvement.

Ms. Goldstein requested staff consider restricting street parking on Hopyard Road just north of the corner of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue. She felt cyclists were forced to make dangerous maneuvers.

Ms. Goldstein further discussed a list of intersections that had been suggested for special bicycle detectors that the Committee had reviewed at the previous meeting. She felt that only four high priority intersections on the list would be appropriate for the detectors and thought most problem areas were left-hand turn lanes. Ms. Goldstein provided details of an alternative pilot program and priority intersections for staff and the Committee to consider.

The Committee discussed the problems of cars parked on streets with advertising matter on them.

Ms. Pearce discussed with staff the possibility of modifying bike symbols/lanes on eastbound Stoneridge Drive approaching Hopyard Road to reduce conflicts between cyclists and motor vehicles.

Mr. Ritter was provided information about bicycle education courses that are provided in the local elementary schools.

8. NEXT MEETING

Staff informed the Committee that the draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan would be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at either their July or August meeting and to City Council at their September 15 meeting. The next meeting of the BPAC Committee is scheduled for October 19, 2009.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Ms. Pearce at 7:20 p.m.