

Bike / Pedestrian Task Force Minutes 2-28-2013

Present: Barb Mee, Evan Coward (APD), Nona M Stude, Kristina Solberg, Tyler Radford (APD), Heather Hine (APD), Jonathan Derrick (APD), Chris Byers (APD), Tom Redinger, Claudia Nix, Lyuba Zuyeva, Cathy Ball COA, Tony Hauser, Marc Hunt (city council member), Mike Sule.

A dynamic meeting was held as our facilitator; Kris discussed his proposal for a change in the leadership setup of the Task Force. His job has changed giving him less time to carry all the duties of the Task Force himself. He suggests that we use the 5 E's as a way to split the duties into manageable sections. He is willing to continue being facilitator of the group or lead one of the following areas if someone else wishes to facilitate. Each area would have someone heading up the bike issues, someone heading up the walking issues and others as liaisons from various organizations. For example, see below:

Engineering Bike Walk Liaison (could be AOB, NC DOT, MPO, Buncombe Co. or BRBC)

Evaluation would be divided up the same

Education

Enforcement

Encouragement

Kris asked that everyone think about it and we can continue the discussion next month.

Cathy Ball, Ex Dir. of Public Works and Multi-Modal Transportation and Marc Hunt, City Council member attended our meeting to talk about the reorganization of the city departments. Two months ago Gary Jackson requested that the city departments be put into teams with a leader and they would work together in an effort of improving efficiency and reduce silos. Thus the creation of a Multi-Modal Department which would include Transportation, Parks and Street Department being one team with a Multi Modal Transportation Commission which would make up of the Planning & Zoning Commission, Neighborhood Advisory Commission, Transit-Subcommittee, Greenway sub-committee, Bike and Ped Sub-committee with 11 people. Staff reorganization is finished; the citizen's commission is still in the planning stages. The advisory council of sustainability would also like to be involved in this effort. This is planned to integrate the departments work. The only requirement is these people would need to be residents of Asheville.

Cathy shared her vision for the multi-modal department. We need to provide a hub and spoke system of connections to various points in the city in an effort to improve multi-modal commuter traffic. This will help with prioritizing needs and type of facilities needed.

Evan Coward reported that the International Police Mountain Bike Association conference in 2016 will be held here in Asheville. The department will need to have a lot of help to accomplish this task.

Enforcement unit-of the APD performed a pedestrian sting targeting motorists with 24 man hours and 37 total charges. Some took it very well some disagreed. This included motorists failing to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk and also targeted pedestrians and giving them verbal warnings. They plan to do one next month somewhere in West Asheville. They are advertising ahead of time that these will be happening.

Lyuba reported that the Transportation Board of the French Broad MPO approved the Complete Sub-committee's recommendations today.

There will be a discussion on Wed, April 6 at 9 AM at Land of Sky about Traffic Studies and how we might use them to evaluate which routes should have bike and/or pedestrian improvements on them. She encouraged folks to attend.

They are also thinking about slowing down the Leicester Hwy project, there will be a public hearing March 28th at 12:30 at Land of Sky on this topic.

Blue Ridge Regional Bike Plan is in its final stages.

Kris announced that Buncombe Bike Ed Network will be holding classes the Second Saturday of every month there will be a class in Traffic Skills or Commuting Class. They will be happening at the YWCA at 10 AM beginning March 9th. Please pass the word. The APD members were given several mini announcements to pass on to individuals.

Barb announced that an intern, Carolyn from the UNC-A Health and Wellness program got 30 volunteers to help with the bike & ped counts next September. She would still like to have more, so pass the word. Terri suggested that we be intentional and pick a core of 15 intersections that we count each year so that we can see how we are doing with our work.

Barb asked if having the Complete Streets Workshop in May would be okay. There was some discussion about either the end of April or first full week of June.

Kris reported that Strive Not to Drive needs lots of volunteer support. The event will be happening May 12- 18th. The next meeting is March 4th at the WNC Alliance offices. There will be a walk and bike event this year.

Parks and Rec applied for a Tourism Grant. They passed the first round and are being asked to give a presentation on Monday at 11 AM at the Chamber of Commerce. Tony Hauser is willing to be there if there is a need for support or clarifications.

Tony said that Altamont Environmental have a contract to design to design the UNC-A section from Catawba to WT Weaver of the Reed Creek Greenway and also provide engineering fees for the portion from Magnolia to the Skate Park.