

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Minutes
September 20, 2018**

Vision: *For Asheville to be a community of connected pathways that is healthy, safe and accessible for people of all ages.*

Mission: *To educate the public about bicycle and pedestrian transportation; to advocate for the development and maintenance of safe, convenient and inter-connected facilities; to promote the benefits of walking and biking for individuals and community health.*

Attendees: Scott Dickens, Terri March, Meg Pigman, Tristan Winkler, Grace Curry, Till Dohse, Claudia Nix, Dan Baechtold, Barbara Whitehorn, Randy Warren.

Introductions and Administrative Details

Till Dohse facilitated the meeting and Dan Baechtold took the minutes. The August minutes were not available for review and approval.

Guest

Barbara Whitehorn, City of Asheville Finance Director, presented to the group regarding the City's process for participatory budgeting and capital projects budgeting. Barbara relayed the following points about the budget:

- It is a year-round process
- Budget requests take place in Sept./Oct.
- In November, data is gathered for the operating budget
- The budget is always constrained by available capacity.
- For the operating budget, requests are always greater than capacity
- Match money for grants is important
- In January City Council begins to address the capital budget
- Worksessions for the operating budget start in early March

Barbara also discussed the following efforts to improve the budget process:

- Bringing in the public sooner to the budgeting process

- Piggybacking on existing meetings to inform the public
- Making meetings more accessible and convenient

Barbara also gave an overview of participatory budgeting and the group discussed examples of participatory budgeting in other communities, such as Chicago.

Task Force Project Work

Till Dohse presented the report from the most recent Ped/Bike Count (see report for additional information). The group discussed possible reasons for lower counts.

The Walk-Friendly application was submitted. The group is hopeful to be involved at a presentation at NC Walk/Bike Summit on 10/19. Grace Curry said she appreciates all the effort.

Scott Dickens gave an update on the web site. The hosting has been moved to Blue Host. Most of the broken links have been fixed. No recent minutes are posted and Scott asked that the minutes be sent to him so he could post them. They become useful for the annual report.

Regular Updates

Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue – none

Multimodal Commission – Terry said it would be useful for everyone to have access to the sidewalk maintenance maps that were presented by Kyle Arendt at a recent meeting. There was also a good presentation recently by the Charlotte Street Business Association which was supportive of making proposed improvements. Also, Terry mentioned the creation of the vision zero task force.

There were brief updates from the French Broad River MPO, and on topics such as Street Tweaks and Open Streets.

For next month the group would like to have a larger discussion regarding the City of Asheville sidewalk program.