

Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force Minutes, March 17, 2022

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.*

Introductions & Administrative Details

- This was a virtual meeting
- Minutes taken by Claudia Nix
- Till asked if there were any changes to the February Minutes. No one spoke up so they were accepted.
- No Changes to Agenda

Those attending: Anna Sexton, Till Dohse, Scott Dickens, Randy Warren, Grace Curry, Colin Kinton, Patricia Katz from MMTTC, and Claudia Nix

Old Business

- Update on benches in honor of Barb and Janet. Till has not been able to look into the procedure of how we can raise the funds (\$2,000.) for two benches. It was also suggested by Randy that we check to be sure family members agree to where benches were to be placed.

New Business

- Proposal to do away with Boards and Commissions. Randy mentioned that the city is considering dropping the present process of having so many boards & commissions because of the toll on staff and that many people are unable to be involved due to their time constraints. The city is considering to have 4 official Commissions and then allowing folks to sign onto specific issues. We are unsure where this is working in other communities. It will also be some time before a decision would be made on this.
- College Patton Bike Lanes walking tour occurred this afternoon. Randy, Till and Anna were in attendance and gave an update which was quite positive. Another tour will take place on Sat, Mar 19, 2-3 PM. They encourage folks to attend. You do need to register through the project page. She was glad to see how many folks engaged today. They added folks as they walked thru the route.
 - Claudia gave a report on a taped webinar on Vision Zero that she watched. She suggests that folks watch the taped session and to watch the 2nd one that took place today which also was taped. There were good suggestions on how we can use this information in our own community to work on reducing crashes. Street design is better than using law enforcement. Need to discuss how crashes are costing the economy, state thru medical payments as well as individuals. How

cost of housing affects the poor by making them live farther out & making them more likely to be involved in a crash. Need to get manufactures of cars involved in adding safety features on all cars.

Regular Updates :

- Multimodal Commission- Randy reported that the College & Patton Bike Lane proposal was passed by MM as well as the Merrimon Ave lane conversion proposal. Folks can and should send positive comments to NC DOT. He encourages folks to call as that is more positively received and some negative comments have been phoned in. Comments will be received until May 24th. 300 people attended the meeting.
- French Broad River MPO- no one in attendance
- Buncombe County- No report
- NCDOT update- No report
- Asheville on Bikes/BRBC/AARP/Street Tweaks/other groups- No report
- City Report made by Anna regarding sidewalk projects from the bond which are moving forward for Haw Creek, Johnston Blvd, Onteora & Patton Ave. Also the Gap Plan the survey is out until Mon, March 21. Please fill out the survey. It will go to city council in May to be voted on.

Announcements/Events

- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting is in April 21st
- Agenda Items for next month? Let Till know.
- Guests you want to invite to future meetings? Let Till know.
- Keep sending/posting images for the [Task Force website](#) and [Facebook page](#). [Scott Dickens](#) is the point of contact

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Meeting was ajorned at 6:45 PM