



UNAPPROVED MINUTES CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes: Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)
Date of Meeting: August 13, 2007
Time of Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
Place of Meeting: Milpitas Sports Center Conference Room

- I. CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. ROLL CALL** *BPAC Members*
Present: Cheryl Bunnell (Chair), Nawal Stanojevic (Vice Chair), Rene Briones, Jose Leon
- Staff: City Council Member Armando Gomez, Janice Spuller (Nadal), George Mendoza
- Absent: Commissioners Fred Zeise,
- Quorum was established.
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** M/S: Briones/Stanojevic
All Ayes
- V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** Approval of April 10, 2007 Minutes
M/S: Stanojevic/Briones
All Ayes
- Approval of June 11, 2007 Minutes
M/S: Briones/Stanojevic
All Ayes
- VI. PUBLIC FORUM** Aaron Faupell, 735 London Drive, Milpitas
Mr. Faupell mentioned a few issues. There is a nice Coyote Creek Trail but the access on the north end of the trail is very bad for bicyclists. Two exit only lanes on the overpass over 880 with no bike facilities and there is no way for bicyclists to safely navigate over the area. This is the west end of Dixon Landing Road traveling over I-880. Most of Dixon has wide outer lane and that disappears at California Circle and Dixon Landing Road and it turns into 2 through lanes and 2 exit only lane with a 40 mph which is faster with no bike facilities, causing bicyclists to cross over with no line of sight.
- Commissioner Briones mentioned he questioned this before and didn't understand why it was designed like that. Mr. Faupell said there is a bike lane on the south side of the street. Commissioner Briones said the overpass is maintained by Caltrans. Staff Janice Spuller agreed and the City can forward this comment as the City reviews Dixon Landing Road with the BART project. Mr. Faupell requested to look at Dixon and include his

comments. He commutes from Milpitas to Sunnyvale. It's a good commute route.

Mr. Faupell's other issue is Milpitas Police likes to put out large signs (Changeable Message Signs) that block bike lanes. He has had to call the traffic department to have these moved. Mr. Faupell states he is sure these wouldn't go in motorized vehicle lanes but no problem going in bicycle lanes. Mrs. Spuller said that there are a few out for the Celebrate Milpitas Festival this weekend. Mrs. Spuller said she would forward these minutes to Police Chief or Department highlighting these comments. Mr. Faupell said sometimes the signs are in the shoulder where bicycle lanes aren't marked.

Mr. Faupell also added that the Milpitas Police Department should clarify riding bikes on sidewalk and that it is not illegal in Milpitas. Commissioner Briones said the law is age 16 and below can ride on sidewalk and over 16 years old is illegal. Mr. Faupell said it is up to the municipal agency to decide and the only law in Milpitas is you may not ride when it is posted. Mrs. Spuller said she would clarify with legal and the Police department.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Commission Announcements

Chair Bunnell announced Jose Leon is a new commissioner. Commissioner Jose Leon introduced himself. He is a Milpitas resident for 15 years and bikes a lot with his son and wants to be involved and make difference and make it better for those who bike for recreation or for commute. The Commissioners introduced themselves.

2. Staff Announcements

Mrs. Spuller shared the new BPAC roster. Mrs. Spuller said that last week she received an email that there is a new alternate commissioner that will be appointed. The other new alternate commissioner Wei Sun called her and mentioned he is unable to make this meeting due to a family commitment.

Mrs. Spuller shared that new commissioners will have to review the Open Government ordinance presentation on video. Leon asked if it was online and Mrs. Spuller said it is not but can borrow it from the City Clerk's office.

Mrs. Spuller said the position of Chair Bunnell and Leon are expiring this month and an email to the Mayor for reappointment is necessary.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Commission Follow Up

i. Representation VTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Chair Bunnell and Vice Chair Stanojevic are going to alternate. The next meeting is September 12, 2007. Mrs. Spuller said she cannot make this meeting but will review the agenda with the Chair and

Vice Chair prior to the meeting. Vice Chair Stanojevic can attend the September meeting and Chair Bunnell will make the next.

2. Milpitas Traffic Congestion Committee Update

i. Traffic Improvements- Loading Zone striping along Escuela Parkway

Mrs. Spuller mentioned the City would no longer pursue the removal of bicycle lanes on Escuela Parkway. The City will look at other alternatives with the School District such as loading zones on their property between Escuela Parkway and Arizona Drive. Chair Bunnell said a drop off zone exists, but not used.

Chair Bunnell met with the City Manager, Department of Public Works and City Engineer, Jaime Rodriguez, and Allyson McDonald (Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association/Escuela Traffic Congestion Committee) two Fridays ago to go over the logistics. The meeting went over the concerns and looked at a lot of alternatives. It was the consensus of the group that some of the things that could help to encourage the kids is to encourage VTA to put a bus bulb out on southbound Escuela Parkway that blocks the bike lane and to work with the school district for alternatives to work with the City for a more efficient drop off zone because there is an efficient drop off zone at the elementary and middle school. Chair Bunnell felt it was an encouraging and productive meeting.

Another thing that was brought up was Allyson of the Escuela Traffic Congestion Committee is looking for VTA to provide reduce rate bus passes to encourage them to get on the bus instead of drive their car. Allyson said VTA is not willing to do so. The City Manager encouraged her group to attend a school board meeting to see if the board can cost share \$2500 and then go to Council for the remainder amount. Chair Bunnell asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to endorse this plan and she will go with Allyson to the school board meeting to request the funds.

Commissioner Briones asked if this is in addition to the current student pass. Mrs. Spuller said this is for monthly passes and added that in September the VTA is reducing the rate from \$49.50 to \$40.00.

Council Member Gomez asked what the objective, to increase bus ridership? Mrs. Spuller said this is to reduce the traffic on Escuela and increase bus ridership.

Chair Bunnell invited Rob Means to participate in the conversation. Mr. Means participates in the Escuela Traffic Congestion Committee. He mentioned the plan is to do half fair and twice the ridership so the VTA is revenue neutral. They are lining up some guarantee sources of income in case there is a shortfall.

Commissioner Briones said his hesitation is how the bus route covers Milpitas and how it would be able to get the students to the high school or middle school? Mrs. Spuller said that right now they double bus service so it's the same route, but the goal is to promote the reduction in price and decrease congestion on Escuela Parkway.

Commissioner Leon asked what is the ridership; if they are doing double buses, is it necessary to decrease times between buses? Mrs. Spuller said there are ridership numbers and she thinks she may have a memo from the Escuela Traffic Congestion Committee.

Council Member Gomez wanted to add on to Commissioner Briones thought to whether or not if it is routes, overcrowding on buses, more buses, and what is the understanding of the problem. Mrs. Spuller said the cost of the monthly transit pass prevents students from taking transit. Mr. Means added they recognize that and is reducing the price from \$50 to \$40 and we would be reducing it from \$50 to \$25. The fare reduction plus advertising and social encouragement would get more ridership. There is excess capacity though he is not sure if it could handle the bus capacity.

Commissioner Leon said he is skeptical that this program by itself would encourage people to take the bus. The reality is that we would rather take our own mode of transportation. Commissioner Stanojevic also added that taking the bus adds on time in the morning.

Commissioner Briones said his daughter would have to walk further to take the bus and would rather be dropped off than take the bus or walk. This is common in the thinking of students. Commissioner Briones lives near Curtner Elementary and there is no bus stop.

Mrs. Spuller said she wasn't confirmed on the Escuela Committee time frame for the program but if the Commission would like for staff to gather the information and questions (route information and capacity) for the next meeting to review and endorse, if applicable.

Council Member Gomez asked if this is on the next Council agenda. Mrs. Spuller didn't think so.

Chair Bunnell asked if the Commission desired for staff to collect more data. Commissioner Briones said yes and would like all the information on the concept of investing money and lowering fares and how it would make changes to the number of cars that go through Escuela in the morning and afternoon. Mr. Means said that it's a draw- if there is an increase from 200 to 400 riders; it would

remove 200 or so more cars. It's an experiment.

Commissioner Leon requested to find out exactly what buses stop in front of Escuela to get an idea what kind of coverage for the City of Milpitas and the ridership numbers currently, number of students using the monthly passes.

Chair Bunnell asked Mr. Means if they are looking for feedback before October. Mr. Means said he thinks the schedule has slipped.

Chair Bunnell mentioned the City is moving forward with putting a loading zone onto Jacklin Road prior to the beginning of the school year.

Commissioner Briones wanted clarification that the bicycle lanes will be removed? Chair Bunnell said the City will not be removing bicycle lanes and are looking at alternatives.

3. Celebrate Milpitas Art & Wine Festival, August 18 & 19, 2007

Mrs. Spuller mentioned there are a few volunteers for this weekend's Celebrate Milpitas Festival and wanted to confirm the logistics. She passed out a map of the location and fact sheet of the event. Saturday, Mrs. Spuller will be there from 9 am to Noon and then all-day Sunday.

Vice Chair Stanojevic said she will be there Saturday morning until noon, Chair Bunnell in the afternoon.

Mr. Faupell asked if we have worked with Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC). Mrs. Spuller said SVBC won't be able to attend but they will be providing material.

Commissioner Leon said he is available from 1:30 pm Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Commissioner Briones said he is only available Saturday afternoon.

Chair Bunnell restated her family would be there that afternoon.

Vice Chair Stanojevic said she can be there Sunday morning as well.

Commissioner Leon might bring an exchange student from Japan.

Mr. Means shared that he remembered past events ex-chair Bill Reisinger has done it out of pocket to rent tent to protect the members from the sun and heat. Mrs. Spuller confirmed she has a tent reserved. Mr. Means offered to participate and bring his electric bike and scooter to educate. The Commissioners approved to have Mr. Means participate.

Commissioner Leon asked if there was anyone that knew of the Segway rider on Piedmont Road to participate. There was no response.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bikeway Master Plan

- Mrs. Spuller distributed a draft Bikeway Master Plan RFP. There will be an update from the 2003 version and staff will be hiring a consultant. The table of contents is a preview of the things staff will be asking a consultant to do. This will flesh out the City's current plan and to list projects with a timeline and budget. Mrs. Spuller requested Commissioners to review and provide comment by mid-September. Staff will advertise for consultants in October and hopefully hire by December. The consultant will come to the BPAC meeting and review goals and drafts with the commissioners and complete by June 2008.

2. International Walk to School Day, October 3, 2007

- Mrs. Spuller put this as a placeholder as Randall and Pomeroy elementary schools are participating with the Traffic Safe Communities Network of Santa Clara (TSCN) to promote this program.

Chair Bunnell asked if Sinnott elementary school is participating. Mrs. Spuller said that TSCN put a call out to participate in May and only Randall and Pomeroy are participating. Mrs. Spuller added that they will be receiving a \$385,000 Federal Safe Routes to School grant, but haven't been notified when funding will be disbursed. The City can outreach next year.

Chair Bunnell asked what could be done this year. Mrs. Spuller said they can participate with the two schools the day of the event and added that Kaiser Permanente is partnering with Pomeroy for healthy walking/lifestyle program.

Chair Bunnell asked if there is anything to do as a Commission or City to promote to the other schools? She suggested to coordinate with the schools

Commissioner Briones said the Commission should follow up with the schools that aren't participating to promote the event. Chair Bunnell said she would be willing to call the schools and asked Commissioner Briones to assist. Vice Chair Stanojevic can provide contact information.

X. ROUNDTABLE/OPEN FORUM

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Chair Bunnell said Mrs. Spuller and her met last week to discuss the

Commission's obligations and responsibilities. Ideas including having speakers come in to talk about different bicycle and pedestrian issues such as someone from VTA talk about Countywide bike plan, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Traffic Safe Communities Network, things the Commissioners would like to learn. Chair Bunnell asked the Commissioners to think about this and get back to her.

Chair Bunnell said she is interested in the master plan for the Coyote Creek Trail.

Council Member Gomez reminded the Commission there is a work plan that they can review and make changes. Mrs. Spuller said they can agendaize that for October.

Commissioner Briones said the Commissioner should review the work plan and make another one for next year.

Chair Bunnell said the Commission should step back and see where we can make an impact.

Mr. Means mentioned there is no flag in the room. Mrs. Spuller said she could ask the Sports Center Staff prior to the meeting.

2. Safety

Commissioner Briones mentioned the school year is coming up again and there are a lot of young people riding bikes without helmets, and again there is no enforcement from our police department. He dreads hearing the news about someone falling from his or her bike and hitting his or her head on the pavement. Chair Bunnell added that people biking on the wrong side of the road is also dangerous and asked how to make these suggestions.

Council Member Gomez said he could let the Police chief or City Manager know or make a formal announcement at City Council meetings. Council Member Gomez can forward the request to the City Manager.

Vice Chair Stanojevic said walking on Eastbound Jacklin near the I-680 South on ramp is dangerous for pedestrians as there are overgrown bushes blocking the view of pedestrians near the crosswalk.

Chair Bunnell said the Calaveras overpass streetlights are out between Milpitas Blvd and Abel Street in both directions.

Commissioner Leon said that Main & Abel Streets has a lot of construction and is unsafe to bicycling.

3. Public Awareness

Commissioner Leon asked if there are any cities to model the Bikeway

Master Plan? Mrs. Spuller said San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Fremont were pretty comprehensive.

Commissioner Briones asked to revisit the League of American Bicyclists to be a Bike Friendly City. Mrs. Spuller said the City could apply after the completion of the Bikeway Master Plan update.

Commissioner Leon asked to have nice visible sign that promote the sharing of the road though he doesn't know how many signs are necessary and effective. He said this brings attention to the motorists to share the road and if this be considered in our plan. Mrs. Spuller said she would ask Jaime Rodriguez in Traffic Engineering about the signage. Commissioner Leon said Sunnyvale, Saratoga, Palo Alto have nice signs. This is something to alert motorists to be aware of bicyclists.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

M/S: Stanojevic/Briones

All Ayes

Next Meeting: October 8, 2007