



APPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes: Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)
Date of Meeting: April 14, 2008
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), Rene Briones, Alternates: Wei Sun, Cheng-Wei Pei

Staff: Janice Spuller

Absent: Commissioners Nawal Stanojevic, Jose Leon, Fred Zeise
Council Member Armando Gomez

Quorum was established. Alternates Wei Sun & Cheng-Wei Pei are voting members
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** Staff Janice Spuller requested from the Commission to add an additional item to the Agenda under Old Business regarding the Bikeway Master Plan Update

Motion to approve the agenda as amended: Sun
Second: Briones
All Ayes
- V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** Approval of February 11, 2008 Minutes
M/S: Briones/Sun
All Ayes
- VI. PUBLIC FORUM** Rob Means, 1421 Yellowstone Avenue, Milpitas
Mr. Means discussed his attendance at the San Jose International Airport Board Workshop with VTA Staff presenting the automated people mover at the San Jose International Airport that will connect the airport to Caltrain Station/future BART Station and the 1st Street/LRT station. The VTA says it will cost \$450 million, with the VTA only paying 60%, and the airport pay 40%.
Mr. Means mentioned the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) advocate Palo Alto Steve Rainey sharing an alternative option of supporting 21 stations instead of the 3 proposed by the VTA using an overhead system. This system is half of the cost of the people mover system.

Mr. Means will be meeting with the Board Chairman to discuss the options and will suggest a pilot in Milpitas using a PRT system over the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks. Mr. Means will share the information with the group.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Chair Announcements

Chair Bunnell updated the Commission on the VTA BPAC meetings she is attending:

- Chair Bunnell attended a workshop on the County Pedestrian Expressway Plan. This is purely based on funding but they are promoting pedestrian access to most places that are not safe. Chair Bunnell reviewed the Montague Expressway map and there is sidewalk access on both sides. The concern to Chair Bunnell is timing with the BART plan and the Expressway Plan. She wants to ensure there is sidewalk access before the BART project so pedestrians can access BART. Central Expressway in Sunnyvale is unsafe for pedestrians so they will offer alternate routes. Chair Bunnell added she is the only pedestrian on the VTA BPAC.
- Santa Clara Countywide Bicycle Plan. Chair Bunnell shared some presentations of the plan. Ms. Spuller stated there is a link that she can send once the plan is finalized.
- BART Extension project. Chair Bunnell discussed the BART project and shared the bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are located near the Milpitas Station.

Another announcement Chair Bunnell mentioned was the San Jose Mercury News article about the trails. It is very encouraging.

One final thing Chair Bunnell suggested was looking at the Sunnyvale website and think of things to add to the Milpitas BPAC website such as links and additional information.

2. Commission Announcements

There were no Commission Announcements

3. Staff Announcements

Ms. Spuller announced that she can update the Commission on the BART and Transit Area Plan Projects.

Chair Bunnell requested that she and staff coordinate on updates for the VTA BPAC meeting. Commissioner Sun also requested information for writing the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition newsletter.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Election of Vice Chair*

Commissioner Nawal Stanojevic was not present at the meeting but sent a letter that was included with the Agenda requesting her appointment as Vice Chair of the Commission.

Being there no other nominations, Commissioner Briones made a motion to appoint Commissioner Stanojevic as Vice-Chair.

The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sun.

All Ayes

2. Commissioner Recognition Brunch, April 19, 2008

Ms. Spuller reminded the Commissioners of the April 19 Commissioner Recognition Brunch and personally thanks the Commission for their work and commitment to BPAC.

3. Commissioner Reports on BPAC meetings

Commissioner Sun will attend the next San Jose BPAC meeting.

Commissioner Pei attended the Mountain View meeting. Commissioner Pei said he will probably attend another meeting as the major topic regarding parking around their high school was contentious. Commissioner Pei found interesting that the City Council empowered the Mountain View BPAC to make decisions regarding this parking situation. Commissioner Pei will attend another meeting.

Chair Bunnell still plans to attend the Sunnyvale BPAC.

Commissioner Briones will attend the next Fremont meeting.

4. Bike to Work Day

Staff Ms. Spuller reminded the group of the May 15, 2008 event. She distributed a draft Council Proclamation for Bike to Work Month/Bike to Work Day for the May 6, 2008 meeting. Ms. Spuller requested the Commissioners to review and approve the Proclamation text and also if there were members of the Commission available to accept the Proclamation.

Chair Bunnell would like to recycle the plaque to add the new Proclamation.

Ms. Spuller stated the event is planned and the major sponsor is Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, who will provide the bags and the City purchases T-shirts for the event. Ms. Spuller requested volunteers for the event.

Commissioner Briones volunteered at the Shell Station.

Commissioner Sun asked if there will be a Great Mall transit Station Energizer Station. Ms. Spuller said the VTA is sponsoring the station and the City may assist. Commissioner Briones added this station is fully staffed.

Resident Aaron Faupell, 735 London Drive, Milpitas, asked if there has been a study of the bicycle commuting routes as this would be the best determination of the location. Ms. Spuller said that the stations have been used in the past but welcome a study to determine next year's stations. Mr. Faupell mentioned the Coyote Creek path is a good route.

Commissioner Sun said Abel Street is a popular path.

Commissioner Sun made the motion to accept the Proclamation text for the May 6, 2008 City Council meeting.

Commissioner Briones seconded the motion.
All Ayes

Ms. Spuller requested volunteers for the event. Commissioner Pei is available to volunteer at any station. Ms. Spuller will send out a reminder via email.

Resident Aaron Faupell may review routes

5. Bikeway Master Plan Update (added Agenda item)

Ms. Spuller stated staff met with the consultant Alta Planning + Design (Alta) today (Monday, April 14) to kick off the project update the Bikeway Master Plan. Most of the meeting discussed information gathering such as background information and GIS mapping.

Ms. Spuller suggested with the timeline of completing the project by the end of the calendar year, if there can be a special BPAC meeting in May to meet with the consultant and review plans, ideas, and provide feedback. In June, staff would like a public workshop to elicit more input and invite the Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources Commission meeting.

Some suggested dates to meet in May is the 21st, or the 12th, or 13th.

Ms. Spuller will poll the Commission via email for the best date. This is a public meeting and it will be posted on the City's website.

The regular meeting will still be on June 9, 2008

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bicycle Rack Survey

Ms. Spuller stated at the last meeting resident Robert Gonzalo suggested looking at bicycle rack deficiencies. Ms. Spuller suggested this could be an extracurricular activity for the group to perform the study. In her discussion with Alta, they actually worked with the VTA quite a few years ago to inventory bicycle rack deficiencies throughout the County. When the VTA requested from Milpitas, they stated only public facilities, which Milpitas did not have any deficiencies since all public facilities have bike racks. Alta will provide that list to staff to share with the group.

Each year, the City of Milpitas receives a grant from the Transportation Development Act, administered by the VTA that provides a set dollar amount based on population. Bicycle Racks can be purchased through this grant.

Chair Bunnell asked if the Commission can form a subcommittee because they cannot complete everything in one meeting.

Chair Bunnell asked who can be on this Subcommittee to compile the list. Commissioner Briones requested input on how to get the public to advise the Commission on locations. Ms. Spuller said this can be posted on the City's website. Chair Bunnell asked if there is a budget to advertise on the Milpitas POST.

For Bike to Work Month, staff can do a media release to the Milpitas POST that includes a request for bike racks.

In addition, the Commission suggested there be a recommended bike rack style.

Commissioner Pei made a motion to submit a Milpitas POST advertisement to request bicycle rack input.

Commissioner Sun seconded the motion.
All Ayes

Resident Rob Means suggested the Commission and volunteers perform their own survey of bike rack deficiencies.

Commissioner Sun will look at the Great Mall area.

Resident Rob Means will survey the Park Town area.

Commissioner Briones will review the McCarthy and Lucky shopping center (across City Hall).

Commissioner Pei can review Calaveras Boulevard between I-880 and I-680 including the Town Center.

Resident Aaron Faupell suggested during the survey they should take note on how many existing bike racks there are, how big the shopping center is, what kind of bike rack, and if it is installed properly. A lot of times, the bike racks are too close to a wall to be useful.

Chair Bunnell stated she could look near Milpitas High School.

Resident Robert Gonzalo said he could take pictures of where bikes are parked near trees, gas mains, or poles near bus stops.

Commissioner Sun will look at the Milpitas Square area. The problem with the area, Commissioner Briones, is the access.

Chair Bunnell said she and Ms. Spuller can look at the list offline and review the areas that are not being surveyed.

Commissioner Pei asked if staff works with businesses to make sure they have bike facilities such as the industrial areas. Chair Bunnell wants to know if that is something that can be discussed with Planning, or the Planning Commissioner. Ms. Spuller also mentioned the Economic Development Commission works with businesses and maybe another group.

X. ROUNDTABLE/OPEN FORUM

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

- There were no comments on Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

2. Safety

- Commissioner Briones mentioned the past 2-3 weeks, and noted that he has biked through Abel Street and noticed the gaps between Great Mall Parkway and Calaveras Boulevard where the bike lanes disappear. The gap is northbound on Abel Street in front of St. John's Church and another one near the Post Office. As part of the Midtown Specific Plan, the bike lane was supposed to be along Abel since it is removed from Main Street.

- Chair Bunnell opened this item to the public. Robert Gonzalo, 172 Perry Street. Mr. Gonzalo mentioned the Calaveras Boulevard at I-680 on and off ramps. The drivers drive fast unaware of bicyclists and pedestrians and suggest a pedestrian lighted crosswalk to notify the drivers. In addition, Mr. Gonzalo said the interchange is not well-lit and it is hard for a driver to see pedestrians/bicyclists. Ms. Spuller said this is a Caltrans facility and she has contact information to share.
- Chair Bunnell thanked Ms. Spuller and staff regarding contacting Caltrans regarding the excess landscaping that was trimmed down at Jacklin and the I-680 on-ramp.

Another item that Chair Bunnell has been contacted by San Jose citizens is the telephone poll on Calaveras Road, east of Piedmont Road. Commissioner Sun added that the pole is in the middle of the bicycle lane and unsafe for bicyclists. This is the 3rd request from the Commission.

The last item from the BPAC, there are incidences on the VTA Buses, that bicycles are being stolen off the racks or replaced with a less expensive bike. Chair Bunnell cautions the Commission to sit close to the bike rack or lock the bike so thieves can not ride the bike away.

3. Public Awareness

Commissioner Sun asked if they can promote Bike to School Day next year. Chair Bunnell mentioned the Palo Alto program that promotes biking and walking to school every day and offers big prizes.

Commissioner Sun said there is a lot of awareness out there and it is important for cyclists to learn early on the rules of the road.

Ms. Spuller mentioned the City is waiting for the clearance of the Federal Safe Routes to School Grant which includes a bicycle safety training which will be given by the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition. Ms. Spuller anticipates the receipt of funding by August 2008. Ms. Spuller can email the scope of the bicycle curriculum. Part of the details includes what elements the schools can actually perform due to time-sensitivity, etc.

Chair Bunnell mentioned she likes the name Pedal for Prizes to encourage the students to walk and bike continuously.

Commissioner Sun mentioned that there was a San Francisco

Chronicle article that stated 50% of most bicycle accidents were due to the bicyclists fault and there needs to be more education on the rules of the road. He feels encouraging the bike rule at a younger age helps them be aware as bicyclists and drivers.

Commissioner Pei asked if this group participates in school promotion of bicycling and walking. Chair Bunnell reiterated the need to form subcommittees for this project. Commissioner Pei feels this should be an ongoing project. Commissioner Briones said this is part of our annual plan.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

M/S: Briones/Sun

All Ayes

Chair Bunnell adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.

Next Meeting: The special BPAC meeting is still to be determined and the next meeting is June 9, 2008