

BPAC FEBRUARY 13, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

5:30PM – Meeting Commences

Attendees:

Alex McRae (Chairperson)

Edwin Linderkamp (Vice Chairperson)

Matt Drew (Member)

Vanessa Junkin (Member)

Nick Voitiuc (City)

Saujanya Guragain (City)

Zachary White (City)

Aurelio Giannitti (Guest)

Saraleigh Monroe (Guest)

- The minutes from the January 9, 2025 meeting were presented for approval. Edwin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Vanessa, and the motion was carried unanimously. The minutes were approved.
- Matt presented the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Vanessa, and the motion was carried.
- The committee agreed to proceed with the election process for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, contingent upon achieving a quorum. Alex volunteered to be nominated as the new Chairperson, and his nomination was unanimously supported by the committee members. Edwin volunteered for the Vice Chairperson role, which was also unanimously approved. The group congratulated the newly appointed individuals.
- The committee discussed membership matters. It was reaffirmed that Vanessa would be stepping down at the conclusion of her term. Saraleigh's application for membership was confirmed. The committee emphasized the importance of active participation from all members to effectively achieve the committee's goals. Alex suggested involving stakeholders as members in future meetings. The committee agreed to adopt a more concise format for the agenda and to ensure that it is distributed in a timely manner to enhance outreach.
- Saujanya inquired about the possibility of changing the meeting schedule (i.e., the day of the month) to ensure better participation from all members. Nick proposed moving the meeting to the second Tuesday of each month, which was agreed upon by the committee. Saraleigh emphasized that meetings should be scheduled in a way that avoids conflicts with holidays and breaks. The committee agreed to revisit the meeting schedule during the next meeting.

- Alex noted that the next National Night Out event is scheduled for August 5, 2025 (Tuesday). Vanessa suggested setting up a BPAC table at the event. Nick proposed including various accessories for distribution, which was supported by Alex. Alex also suggested distributing the survey sheet that Elise shared at the last meeting during this event.
- The committee discussed the Third Friday events, noting the recent decline in attendance. Saraleigh recommended promoting free parking and bike valet services to increase participation. Nick shared that the City is working on improving outreach and press releases to enhance communication with the public. Edwin inquired whether any previous signage for bike valet services remained, to which Alex responded that some may still be available. Edwin proposed bringing starter bikes to encourage people to use the bike valet services. Nick suggested considering the use of confiscated bikes for such events. Alex emphasized the need for careful planning and consideration of expected attendance before committing resources to the bike valet service. Nick inquired about the success of bike valet events in the past, and the committee shared that they were successful during the Maryland Folk Festival, though not as much for other events.
- Zachary shared information about a past program that offered discounts to individuals who biked to local businesses. Saraleigh suggested reaching out to Nicole Blackwater and Nicole Rogers for more information and agreed to follow up with them. Vanessa proposed that, if such businesses still exist, they could be listed on the City's website. Matt acknowledged that convincing businesses to participate may be challenging and recommended a personalized, one-on-one approach. He suggested attending a meeting with downtown businesses to pitch the idea to the broader community.
- Matt confirmed that the Instructor Training Classes are currently on hold due to the instructor (Paddy) being unavailable, as reaffirmed by Aurelio.
- The committee discussed ongoing city projects. Nick shared that the administration is not in favor of adding medians and islands, as the current goal is to promote greater normalcy on the streets while maintaining bike lanes (ie bicyclists and motorists not suddenly encountering unorthodox or clumsy alignments as with medians and curbing in the street). Nick presented a proposed design for Carroll Street, which includes flexible delineators and two-way bicycle tracks without changes. Matt emphasized that buffers between bike lanes and vehicular traffic will still be necessary, which was supported by Saraleigh, who noted the potential dangers of accidents if additional lanes for vehicles are added. The group expressed concerns about bidirectional lanes and the risk of head-on collisions. Matt and Edwin discussed the possibility of using flower planters as temporary buffers for testing at various locations. The committee also discussed challenges related to bicycle crossings at the traffic light on Waverly Drive. Matt proposed adding a bike box at the junctions in the absence of bike signals. Matt inquired about the status of the bike signal installation at Route 13, and Nick shared that discussions with stakeholders are ongoing, with further updates to be provided in future meetings. Matt suggested engaging in broader outreach to understand the perspectives of cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicle users. Saraleigh proposed adding a sharrow at the roundabout on W. Carroll Street to prevent

future accidents. Matt expressed the opinion that a sharrow would be ineffective at this location, and Aurelio supported this view.

- Edwin suggested that it would be beneficial to create more pedestrian-focused roads in the City.
- Matt inquired about the delay in the execution of the bike master plan and the cancellation of certain grants. Nick clarified that not all grants have been cancelled; the primary grant remains active and is still under review. He also mentioned that the contact person at the federal level for grant management has changed. Matt asked about the City's grant manager, and Nick confirmed that it is Andy and himself. He added that the City is working on prioritizing and deprioritizing grant projects after a thorough assessment. Saraleigh inquired whether the City was experiencing staffing shortages, and Matt expressed concerns about the impact on project execution if adequate resources are not available. Nick acknowledged that the City is short-staffed but emphasized that the primary issue is untangling complex and outdated documentation from previous grants. The City is working on restructuring these grants with proper direction, documentation, and management practices.
- Saraleigh inquired about the availability of a grant for the development of a bike trail along the abandoned railroad, noting that such a project would improve safety by getting cyclists off the streets. She mentioned that this idea had been communicated to Tom Horton as an important initiative, along with encouraging law enforcement to promote bike lane usage through the distribution of accessories and safety information to the bicyclists, rather than through ticketing or negative messaging.
- Saraleigh shared that she is seeking a media partner for the Ride of Silence (Delmarva live spot). She also mentioned that the bike ride she supported last year is looking for bike leads.

7:00 PM- Meeting Adjourned