

## BPAC MARCH 11, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

### 5:30PM – Meeting Commences

#### Attendance:

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Alexander McRae, Chairperson <i>Term expires: 11/2027</i>	X
Edwin Linderkamp, Vice Chairperson <i>Term expires: 04/2028</i>	A
Dr. Alexander “Sandy” Pope, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 10/2026</i>	A
Mary Buffington, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 10/2026</i>	X
Vanessa Junkin, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 03/2025</i>	X
Matt Drew, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 05/2026</i>	X
<b>City Council</b>	
Angela Blake, Council Liaison	X
<b>City Staff Support</b>	
Nick Voitiuc	X
Saujanya Guragain	X
<b>Guest</b>	
Aurelio Giannitti	X

- The meeting minutes from the February 13, 2025 meeting were presented for comments and approval. Angela asked Nick to elaborate on what ‘normalcy’ entailed from the last meeting in context of the proposed Carroll Street design and roadway improvement. Nick discussed medians and islands and how they haven’t been popular or successful in the past (troublesome for traffic purposes), as well as how the armadillo dividers posed challenges in street sweeping. Angela was pleased to see a proposed Carroll Street design discussed in the previous meeting. Nick added that some feedbacks were collected from the committee that may be useful and could be incorporated into the final design.
- Angela asked Nick about the details of the active grants. Nick shared information about the twelve-million-dollar grant and the incorporation of sidewalk, ADA ramps, and bikeway improvements in fair proportion. He mentioned that the grants are still in flux, as the administration is reviewing possible directions (e.g., one direction being fewer concrete impediments on the road) that can be taken. He also mentioned that change in state representative is also causing some potential delays. The current goal is to use as much of

the grant as possible, and the administration is confident and optimistic about execution. Nick also discussed the impending closeout of some grants (e.g., Armstrong-Rail Trail, Study associated with bicycle and pedestrian counters, and some additional design work for Rail Trail phases).

- Angela suggested that further details on the twelve-million-dollar grant would assist the committee in providing recommendations on its utilization.
- Angela inquired about the current status of the bike master plan. The committee shared that it was currently paused by the administration.
- Vanessa motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Matt, and the motion was carried unanimously. The minutes were approved.
- Matt approved the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Mary, and the motion was carried.
- Alex discussed the new membership vacancies and Edwin working on a social media post for advertisement. Nick shared about a recent social media post from the City, which was confirmed by the group.
- The recent updates on membership were discussed, including Saraleigh's application and Edwin's renewal. Aurelio confirmed his interest in joining the committee. Alex mentioned Sandy's leave of absence until June.
- Mary requested Saujanya to add term periods to the meeting minutes, Saujanya agreed.
- The group discussed adding new members with different backgrounds to promote diverse ideas. Some committee members agreed to approach people in their circles or those who may be the right candidates to join the committee.
- Vanessa inquired if committee members need to be city residents. Nick shared that the majority of the members must be city residents at the time of their appointment, as stated in the resolution.
- Alex inquired about the National Night Out event and whether the committee was still interested. Vanessa suggested giving out accessories that are already in the committee's inventory during this event, if the participation is confirmed.
- Alex talked about the planned bike valet services and asked if it is worth the effort for the 3rd Friday events, citing low turnout. Vanessa added that only a few people arrive on bikes during these events and can park at the bike racks available in downtown locations. Mary suggested offering valet services based on observation and demand.
- Mary talked about the Folk Festival event and how designated bike parking spaces would be better than bike valet services due to fewer volunteer requirements and more freedom for committee members to move around and enjoy the event rather than staying at a single table/spot. Vanessa added that bike locks could be distributed to assist people in using the bike parking areas for visitors without locks. Nick suggested using mobile bike racks at different locations as an alternative. Mary agreed with the idea and added that movable fences could be a viable plan.
- Matt talked about plans for bike bus services with Pinehurst Elementary School and stated that he would contact the school authorities to execute the plan. Mary suggested that he contact Oliver Johnson at the elementary school for help with coordination.

- Matt found an old list of bike-friendly businesses from 2013 that may assist in reintroducing similar programs or schemes. Matt and Vanessa noted that the list would need to be revisited and revised as downtown businesses and business owners have changed since 2013.
- Matt suggested compiling a list of items for future agendas, including funding, design, and construction updates for city projects relevant to the committee’s scope of discussion and recommendations.
- Nick shared his recent conversation with the state authorities regarding state-proposed roadway improvement work (sidewalk, ADA ramps, and pedestrian crossings) along MD12 (Snow Hill Road). The state communicated that this project is still in the design phase, and decisions on funding allocation and construction will be made at a later date. The group shared some suggestions on the proposed design, including:
  - Modification of turning radius at W Main St. intersection to promote slower vehicular speed. (Matt)
  - Potential closure of the race street to promote safer traffic flow. (Matt)
  - Addition of sidewalk across MD 12 at the Locust St./Park Heights Ave. intersection. (Nick)
  - Increment of green space in proportion to the addition of impervious surfaces (sidewalk, ramps). (Mary)
- Nick shared that the administration is looking into revisiting previous grants for pedestrian crossing improvements at a couple of locations. He also mentioned that the current focus is on improving crossings near school areas based on feedback from the concerned authorities. Vanessa shared her concerns about the intersection near Evening High School and the risk of accidents at that location.
- Matt talked about the E Carroll St. bikeway improvement project and suggested extending the bikeway to the Pond St. intersection, in case it is not planned to extend to Snow Hill Road.
- Matt provided an announcement for ‘Celebrate Trails Day’, an open annual event to be held on April 26th nationwide with multiple events, and details to be determined at a later date. Mary expressed her willingness to help Matt with the event.

**6:40 PM- Meeting Adjourned**