

## BPAC APRIL 8, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

### 5:30PM – Pre-Meeting Discussion Commences

#### Attendance:

| Members  | Attendance |
|--|------------|
| Alexander McRae, Chairperson<br><i>Term expires: 11/2027</i>                 | X          |
| Edwin Linderkamp, Vice Chairperson<br><i>Term expires: 04/2028</i>           | X          |
| Dr. Alexander “Sandy” Pope, Committee Member<br><i>Term expires: 10/2026</i> | A          |
| Mary Buffington, Committee Member<br><i>Term expires: 10/2026</i>            | A          |
| Saraleigh Monroe, Committee Member<br><i>Term expires: 04/2028</i>           | A          |
| <b>City Council</b>  |            |
| Angela Blake, Council Liaison  | X          |
| <b>City Staff Support</b>  |            |
| Nick Voitiuc   | A          |
| Saujanya Guragain  | X          |
| <b>Guest</b>   |            |
| Aurelio Giannitti  | X          |
| Elise Trelegan   | X          |
| Michael Lankford   | X          |

- Angela discussed the evolution of the BPAC’s vision and the reassignment of certain grant funds. She noted that while some grants have proven viable and are being retained and strategically directed, others were allocated to projects later deemed unrealistic, though this was not evident during the early planning phases. The current effort focuses on making practical use of the \$12 million grant, with a major goal being the connection of existing bike paths.
- Angela expressed satisfaction with the presentation delivered at the March meeting regarding the Snow Hill Road sidewalk and bikeway improvement plans.
- Angela also voiced concern over the deferral of the rail trail vision, stating it represents a significant disconnect. She suggested the committee will need to recommend a review and revamp of the vision. The group shared disappointment over this decision and inquired about potential obstacles to the rail trail project. Angela speculated that the current administration’s strategic direction, coupled with a lack of accessible grant funding and

changes in city personnel and agency contacts, may have contributed to the project's stall. She clarified, however, that the rail trail is not entirely off the table.

- Aurelio questioned the timeline for the decision to indefinitely sideline the rail trail project, noting that it had not been discussed during BPAC meetings and that the committee had not been consulted. The group agreed with Aurelio's concerns.
- Angela expressed frustration with the current administration's slow pace and inconsistency. She emphasized the need for better transparency and communication with both the committee and city council. The group collectively noted dissatisfaction with the recent lack of transparency, particularly concerning decisions such as the changes to downtown parking regulations.
- Angela shared her enthusiasm for ongoing sidewalk improvement plans and commended the city for reevaluating key locations in need of upgrades. She also expressed optimism regarding the reconfiguration of Carroll Street, acknowledging the challenges involved in the redesign.
- Elise announced that the Green Team will be launching a sustainable transportation survey targeting downtown businesses. The aim is to gather pedestrian and bicyclist data to inform future social campaigns promoting the use of bike lanes and sidewalks. She also discussed plans to revisit the functionality of the Bike-Friendly Merchant Program. Alex and Aurelio added that Saraleigh has also been working on this initiative.
- Saujanya presented the current BPAC banner to the group.

### **Official Meeting Begins**

- The minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting were presented for review. Alex motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Edwin.
- The April meeting agenda was approved. Edwin motioned for approval, seconded by Alex.
- The committee discussed appointments and reappointments. Saujanya reported that Saraleigh and Michael's appointments, as well as Edwin's reappointment, were imminent and pending council approval. Alex noted that he has reached out to Kevin Dennis from Perdue to explore his interest in joining the committee.
- Alex briefly discussed the upcoming Bike to Work Week event in May and the sustainability-themed Third Friday event in April.
- Michael introduced himself to the group, sharing that he has been without a car for four years and has extensive firsthand experience navigating Salisbury on foot and by bike. He believes this perspective will be valuable to the committee. Aurelio appreciated Michael's insight, noting that many residents are primarily recreational users of sidewalks and bike lanes. Michael also discussed his grant writing experience, comparing the process to solving a Lego puzzle where each action connects to a broader vision. He expressed hope to contribute meaningfully to both the committee and the city council.
- Alex initiated a discussion on the development of the committee's vision and priorities for a future presentation to the city council. He asked Angela about a suitable timeline. Angela responded that there is no strict deadline, though targeting mid-June would be feasible. She added that the timeline could be adjusted based on other committees' schedules.

- Alex invited the attendees to suggest vision/priority items. Michael recommended focusing on connecting existing trails and pathways. Angela supported this suggestion and referenced a previous presentation by Nick, proposing that those ideas be revisited once new committee members are onboarded. Alex added that data from the Green Team's upcoming survey could provide valuable insight for formulating priorities.
- Elise proposed hosting a block party or event aimed at educating bike users on the correct use of signage, signals, and pavement markings. Angela endorsed the idea and suggested supplementing the campaign with educational social media videos.
- Alex summarized the group's identified priority areas as:
  - Public education and information
  - Safety and continuity of bicycle and pedestrian pathways

**6:30 PM- Meeting Adjourned**