

BPAC MAY 13, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

5:30PM – Meeting Commences

Attendance:

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

- The minutes from the April 8, 2025, meeting were presented for review. Mary motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Alex.
- The May meeting agenda was approved. Alex motioned for approval, seconded by Mary.
- Alex inquired about BPAC’s action plan and focus for the upcoming days, particularly in light of recent administrative decisions on key projects and the overall vision set by the committee.
- Saraleigh shared her understanding that there is an ongoing pause on relevant grant-funded projects. Edwin also referenced this in the context of Matt’s resignation.
- Nick stated that, regarding the \$12 million grant, the administration is in the process of accepting a portion of the funds for pedestrian improvements, ADA upgrades, crosswalks, and ramps. Projects requiring hardscaping or physical barriers (e.g., curbing, islands)—which have not been well received in the past (e.g., Fitzwater and College Ave.)—are likely to be excluded. Nick confirmed that the Carroll St. project is moving forward and can be expected to be executed in the coming months.
- Saraleigh asked if the grant funding was being pulled back at the federal level. Nick responded that he has not received any updates to that effect.
- Saraleigh suggested that gathering traffic data on bike and pedestrian usage along trails or sidewalks of interest—using volunteers—could assist with grant writing, planning, and infrastructure improvement efforts.

- Nick mentioned a past grant (which is still being closed out) involving the development of counter software (Eco-Counter) and embedded road sensors to collect user data. He suggested exploring similar options in future meetings.
- Nick shared resources confirming Saraleigh's appointment and Edwin's reappointment.
- Saraleigh inquired about prioritizing the bike trail project along the abandoned railway. Alex seconded this idea.
- Nick noted that there is an active grant for the design of the rail trail currently in progress. The City is cautiously evaluating the design to ensure proposed transitions are appropriate for various locations.
- Alex expressed support for the rail trail project, describing it as a natural progression and an effective step forward, as it provides a separate path for bicyclists as opposed to sharing roads with vehicles.
- Nick emphasized the need to carefully consider transitions between bike trails and bike lanes to ensure they are logical and safe.
- Saraleigh discussed how trail development encourages future extensions and could generate revenue and awareness. She emphasized the need to inform bicyclists and pedestrians and suggested this messaging could help guide the rail trail project. Mary agreed and added that working on well-connected and well-planned trails is more effective than disjointed efforts (e.g., creating a brewery-to-brewery connection).
- Nick cited a previous project involving the addition of a bike lane in an industrial area without adequate connectivity as an example to avoid in future planning.
- Saraleigh noted that other towns have successfully grown bike networks from smaller trail initiatives. Nick and Alex acknowledged this but emphasized that discontinuity remains a concern that must be addressed early.
- Nick stressed that better planning and smarter execution would increase functionality, public support, and administrative and budgetary backing.
- Nick revisited Matt's idea of prototyping temporary changes in various locations to observe public response, then extending or removing the changes based on feedback. He suggested this as an effective future strategy.
- Alex summarized three focus areas: smarter execution, promoting revenue generation from pedestrian and bicyclist use of trails, and encouraging and tracking usage.
- Alex brought up two current membership vacancies following the disapproval of Michael's membership request and asked if anyone had reached out to potential candidates. Nick suggested readvertising the vacancies if no suitable candidates are found within current networks. Alex proposed making an announcement during the Ride of Silence event, and Saraleigh agreed. Nick suggested reaching out to university clubs, and Mary offered to contact the SU Geography Department for potential interest.
- Alex reminded the group about Bike to Work Week and encouraged members to promote biking to work among their colleagues.
- Saraleigh briefly discussed the upcoming Ride of Silence event scheduled for May 21. She requested the use of BPAC resources (bike lights, locks, etc.) for giveaways during the event.

The committee approved the request. Saraleigh encouraged everyone with a bicycle to participate.

- Edwin briefly mentioned his recent interview with Love Light and noted that he will be attending the Placemaking X Summit in Toronto this June.
- Mary referenced a previous meeting discussion suggesting a bike parking area instead of a bike valet for the Folk Festival due to concerns over volunteer availability. The committee ultimately decided to proceed with the valet idea, recommending early advertisement for volunteer recruitment. Members offered to assist Mary in securing volunteers and volunteering themselves as needed.
- Alex inquired about bike-friendly businesses. Saraleigh mentioned that someone had developed an app to track downtown customers and said she would try to locate the person/team for possible collaboration.
- Alex said he would draft a presentation to City Council highlighting BPAC's action plan and vision based on the current meeting's discussion.
- Alex also asked about the High Injury Network. It was concluded that past information on this topic will be gathered and discussed in upcoming meetings.

6:30 PM- Meeting Adjourned