

BPAC OCTOBER 14, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

5:30PM – Meeting Commences

Attendance:

Members	Attendance
Alexander McRae, Chairperson <i>Term expires: 11/2027</i>	X
Mary Buffington, Vice Chairperson <i>Term expires: 10/2026</i>	X
Dr. Alexander “Sandy” Pope, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 10/2026</i>	X
John Sater, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 08/2028</i>	X
Saraleigh Monroe, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 04/2028</i>	X
Tom Horton, Committee Member <i>Term expires: 09/2028</i>	X
City Council	
Angela Blake, Council Liaison	X
City Staff Support	
Nick Voitiuc	X
Saujanya Guragain	X
Guests	
Aurelio Giannitti	X

- The September 9, 2025, minutes were presented. Alex moved for approval, seconded by John, and the motion passed unanimously.
- The October agenda was approved on a motion by Saraleigh, seconded by Mary.
- Saraleigh provided clarification that the Ride of Silence and Bike Party are not BPAC-organized activities, though BPAC supports these events.
- Nick stated that he has requested the addition of the BPAC presentation to the City Council meeting agenda for the next meeting, scheduled for October 27. He asked the committee to provide the finalized presentation by the end of the week.
- Sandy discussed the upcoming “Zombie-Infested 5K Dash” event organized by SU Student United Way on October 26 as an opportunity to participate as a sponsor and set up a BPAC table. Saujanya shared that, unfortunately, there is no budget left. The group suggested adding it as a calendar item for next year.
- Mary spoke about a recent Audiobook Walk event organized by pedestrian safety organization in partnership with the library and presented it as an opportunity for future

coordination/collaboration. Saraleigh shared a similar collaboration opportunity with TidalHealth for the Walk With a Doc event.

- The group discussed committee membership and vacancies. Tom was welcomed as a new committee member. Saujanya shared that a new applicant for BPAC membership is currently under review. Saraleigh inquired whether background checks are conducted for committee members and volunteers and whether that is necessary.
- Mary was nominated as the new vice chairperson by Saraleigh and seconded by John. The other committee members voiced their approval. Mary was appointed as the new vice chairperson.
- The committee discussed the bike valet at the Folk Festival. Mary shared that the accessory giveaways and valet service were a success. Saraleigh will follow up with Scott to obtain information about leftover giveaway items. Sandy noted that the valet location may have been slightly crowded but was good overall from a safety standpoint.
- Alex expressed disappointment with the large amount of plastic use (e.g., beer cups) during the festival.
- Alex shared that he would organize the bike valet services at the next 3rd Friday event.
- John informed the group about the upcoming Good Beer Fest at Pemberton as a possible opportunity for transportation accommodations/ bike valet services.
- John discussed Bike Bus events and potential arrangements with Pinehurst. The committee suggested contacting Matt Drew for coordination.
- Saraleigh stated that creating a QR code and online form/link would be a better approach to gather information from downtown shops regarding bike-friendly businesses and interest in joining or continuing this initiative. Alex offered to assist in creating the QR code and online link. Tom inquired about the previous bike-friendly business list, to which Sandy responded that the list created by SU students is still mostly valid.
- Saraleigh talked about social media engagement and proposed increasing online presence by posting at least once a week. Nick inquired about currently active BPAC social media pages. Mary shared that there is an active BPAC Facebook page, which she has access to and can be used for posting.
- Alex asked for updates on the Snow Hill Road improvements previously proposed by the State. Nick said there have been no new updates but will follow up when information becomes available.
- Aurelio asked for updates on the SS4A grant. Nick shared those multiple conversations have recently taken place with the grant officer and that the City is currently working on updating the grant agreement and scope change document.
- Aurelio asked if any improvements were being planned for Fitzwater Street. Nick shared that it is under consideration due to complaints from multiple people about flat tires caused by bump-outs and narrow parking spaces compared to State standards. He also noted that cars parked in those spaces currently occupy the bike lanes, which is not ideal for bicyclists. He stated that the current plan is to move the parking spaces curbside to prevent cars from encroaching into the bike lanes.

- The group expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed plan, particularly the bike lane's placement between the driving lane and the parking area. Alex questioned whether proper parking and speeding regulations were being regularly enforced by the Police at that location. Mary expressed concern about losing existing planting spaces/planters. Sandy added that the current pedestrian crossings along Fitzwater Street are unsafe and should be addressed during improvements. John suggested exploring speed bumps as an option to reduce traffic speeds. Angela argued that the road is not below standards and that the design was intended for traffic calming and flood mitigation. Saraleigh noted that the design was intentional to promote bicyclist safety.
- Nick explained that the improvements are intended to meet state standards without compromising safety. He said a draft design for Fitzwater Street will be shared with the committee when available at upcoming meetings.
- Angela expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of updates on the Rail Trail and SS4A grants. Nick shared that he has notes on the grants and is available to discuss or provide clarification during future meetings or at any appropriate time.

6:45 PM- Meeting Adjourned