

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: April 7, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Zoom meeting

In attendance online: Wendy Aaronson, Steve Andruski, Monique Ashton, Connie Berkta, Nina Blecher, Nancy Breen, Sophie Chan-Wood, Lynda Honberg, Steve Kaufman, Clark Larson, David Levy, Bill Michie, Martine Palmiter, Carl Petersen, Mark Pierzchala, Alyssa Roff, Judy Rudolph, Shannon Brescher Shea, and Jonathan Solomon.

Nancy started the meeting at 7:07 pm with introductions and requests for additional agenda items.

(1) Clark and David from Rockville Long Term Planning presented parts of the **Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update** submitted to Mayor & City Council on March 15. Public feedback period is open until June 18. Oral testimonies can be presented at the public hearings on April 12 and June 14.

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/203/Rockville-2040-Comprehensive-Plan-Update>

Work sessions will be held on April 19, May 3 and 17 and June 7. The Mayor and City Council hopes to adopt the plan on July 12 or 19.

The previous comprehensive master plan was adopted in 2002.

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/200/Master-Plans>

Public comments can be submitted as a RBAC group or individuals.

On page 56 the Transportation Vision Statement and Goals would be of particular interest to RBAC. Bike parking at bus stops could be possible even if the bus stops are not owned by the City. WMATA funded a study of the Rockville Metro station. Reviewing pages 80 to 84 would be the likely areas for RBAC comment.

(2) Alyssa provided the **City update** and requested shorter text for the Bike Month Proclamation to be presented at the May 3 or 10 Mayor & City Council meeting.

Projects for next year includes the repaving of Maryland Ave to include bike lanes; also the completion of 75% of shared roadway bike facilities in the Bikeway Master Plan. For the shared roadway facilities, the City will be installing signage that says “bikes may use full lane” whenever feasible, meaning where ever there is a defined traffic lane. For all other roadways, such as residential streets without any defined lanes, signage that says “share the road” with a bike icon will be installed. All of the roadways proposed are categorized as low streets by Montgomery County so the signage is appropriate.

Parts of Carl Henn Millennium Trail was reviewed by Pat Sheppard and the County and identified maintenance related concerns between Southlawn Lane and MD 355. MCDOT will be making asphalt repairs, adding flex posts where there may be drop offs or hazards, contacting Verizon and WSSC to discuss some utility adjustments (if feasible) and sweeping and cleaning areas. Pat took some photos of places that need repairs, but is leaving it up to

the Division of Highway Services at the County to address and will follow up after repairs are completed. Alyssa also sent her the RBAC matrix of concerns last year as well as a summary of what Rockville does to maintain our section so the County can follow suit.

(3) Councilmember Mark Pierzchala, RBAC liaison, provided the **Council update** and announced a **budget hearing on April 12**. There will be a work session on April 19 as well as more discussion on the Rockville Plan. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will be at the April 26 meeting to discuss the Rockville Metro station study. The Baltimore Road project is in the works now after a decade in the making.

Mark suggested we supply text or edits to the actual wording of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Agenda item 15 at the April 12 meeting will to discuss hiring legal counsel for the City concerning the I-270 widening project. He also commented that the bike lockers at the Metro stations are not big enough to accommodate all bike handlebars. They need to be larger to fit all types of bikes.

Monique reported that a website called **Engage Rockville** was created to get public feedback. The current project is the future use of RedGate Park. <https://engagerockville.com/>

(4) Carl discussed the future of **group rides**. It was not easy to create cue sheets for the virtual rides due to the many cut-throughs available to cyclists that are had to describe with cues. RBAC groups rides are better led than ridden individually. Additionally, Carl has been leading group hikes with masks and social distancing with no untoward outcomes and many in the County are now vaccination. For these reasons, he proposed starting some group rides in May and possibly the Tuesday nights rides in June. Ride dates could be spread out to accommodate more participants but may depend on the availability of ride leaders. Depending on the availability of ride leaders, a group ride could start at 10 am then another one at 1 pm. Martine and Lynda offered to help with group rides.

Sophie proposed that RBAC host the annual **Ride of Silence** on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. She will reach out to the police about the ride.

(5) Jonathan said he supplied the safety rules to the coordinator of the **Tour de Cookie**. This will be virtual event and registration is now open. <https://tourdecookie.com/tour-de-cookie/>

Martine shared that **EVO Cycle Works** has a repair shop off Gude Drive on Taft Street and a new retail shop on Southlawn Lane. In partnership with BikeMax, reconditioned bikes and e-bikes are sold at this location behind Dunkin Donuts. E-bike conversions can also be performed.

Martine has also started group bike rides from the Southlawn Lane shop. With face masks and Covid regulations, 17 participants are signed up for this Saturday's ride. She may need another ride leader to help.

(6) Steve announced that the **TERRIFIC Kids** program is continuing this year with 11 registrants currently. The giveaway date will be Saturday, July 24 or that weekend depending on the number of participants.

Discussions on additional agenda items will be table for the next meeting:

- Update on bike racks at Federal Plaza (Wendy)
- TCC update (Nancy)

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood