

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: September 1, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

In attendance online: Wendy Aaronson, Bryan Barnett-Woods, Connie Berkta, Olivia Bobrowsky, Nancy Breen, Sophie Chan-Wood, Emad Elshafei, John Hickman, Linda Honberg, Bill Michie, Carl Petersen, Mark Pierzchala, Charlie Regan, William Schlossenberg, Shannon Brescher Shea, Jonathan Solomon, Dave Stinchcomb and Tracy Threefoot.

Nancy started the meeting at 7:03 pm with introductions.

(1) Bryan Barnett-Woods was introduced as our **new pedestrian/bicycle coordinator**. He comes from Prince George County as a principal planner. He hired Michael Jackson, the state's previous bike/ped coordinator and worked with Toole Design as a transportation planner. He wants to implement a multi-modal plan in the City and to establish economical sustainability which is not just recreation and transportation. He is looking for recommendations for field-trip bike rides.

(2) Although Jake was not present, he has been in contact with the City about **trimming hedges and trees along bike routes**. A schedule that is more frequent than quarterly would be helpful. Email any concerns to the bike/ped coordinator. The Carl Henn Millennium Trail on E Gude Drive will have more signage in the fall. There are improvement plans around the scrap metal business for early next year.

(3) Nancy visited Minneapolis, MN which is considered **America's best cycling city**. With 11 lakes, the city has continuous 25-mile and 51-mile bike routes around the city with signage. The flat terrain also makes bicycling easy as well as the separate bike lanes from pedestrians. Easy to follow routes allow people to ride 2 to 4 abreast with speeds of 18 mph. A city bike map was available for sale for \$13.50 at a local bike shop.

(4) Mark provided the **Council Update** and suggested paint on the Carl Henn Millennium Trail near the scrap yard that says No Parking may be effective. He noted the Master Plan had over 500 action items that had nothing to do with land usage. The budget process starts in December so discussions need to start on what we want to see in the City. He welcomes a brainstorming session for ideas. Rockville is the only municipality opposing the widening of I-270.

(5) Planning for the **2022 Tour de Cookie**, Jonathan introduced Charlie and Will from the Tree House, a child advocacy non-profit. They thanked Carl Peterson for his Tour de Cookie support over the past 8 years. Their most successful event was in 2019 with the participation of 900 riders and 300 families. With a change in leadership and establishment as an independent 501-C non-profit, a new executive director is being hired within the next month or so. The Tour de Cookie coordinator will be a paid position.

Charlie will be meeting with Nina Blecher, previous Tour de Cookie coordinator, for debriefing and historical background. He is hoping to replica the successful 2019 event with an enhanced rider experience. He is looking for RBAC guidance on this including future planning and logistic sessions. Will is the interim executive director and has been looking for a start location for the Saturday May 7, 2022 event. The Universities at Shady Grove and the Board of Education on Mannakee are possible venues.

(6) Dave provided an update on the progress of the **Maryland Ave project**. With more input from the Newmark Commons Citizen Association, the City has modified its plans. Although green paint is not in the plan, the white stripe will increase from 3 inches wide to 10 inches. The speed limit will be reduced to 30 mph. The left turn lane coming into the City will become two lanes after the crosswalk for safer pedestrian crossings. There will be a new surface curb-to-curb.

(7) Shannon met the Montgomery County coordinator for **Safe Routes to School**. He is working on a pilot program to teach kids bike education for 2 weeks in the summer. He is looking for up to 3 Rockville elementary schools for this program. The County can provide all materials including the curriculum but will need a Physical Education teacher to take the lead for these two weeks.

Studies have shown that sidewalk infrastructure around schools have improved walkability. Budget items that RBAC could advocate for could be participation in Safe Route to Schools and well as increasing bike racks at schools. Shannon continues to work with Family Biking Advocacy groups in DC and Arlington.

(8) Sophie said the **Rock East District Ride** is all set for Friday, September 10 at 5 pm and will be announced on meetup tonight. Carl offered to sweep; Nancy and Wendy will be there to help also.

Carl will be leading the **Carl Henn Memorial Ride** on Sunday, September 19 starting at 10 am at the Thomas Farm Community Center. Nancy invited Carol Henn to speak. The 13-mile route will include two community gardens and parts of the Carl Henn Millennium Trail. Jake, Jonathan and Nancy volunteered to help.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood