

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: September 6, 2023

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

In attendance online: Bryan Barnett-Woods, Nancy Breen, Sophie Chan-Wood, Olivia Bobrowsky, Joel Eric, Kyle Gallagher, Jake Jakubek, Bill Michie, David Myles, Carl Peterson, Shannon Brescher Shea, Jonathan Solomon, Dave Stinchcomb.

Nancy started the meeting at 7:02 pm with a welcome to everyone and reminder that this meeting will be recorded. Shannon motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting; Dave seconded. The August meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

(1) Councilmember Myles provide the **Council Update** and said there is an interim City Manager and a new City attorney. He also said that debate forums are coming up for the upcoming election. The budget for Fiscal Year 2024 have been approved. (<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/49022/FY-2024-Adopted-Budget>) Any bike requests not in this budget can be requested for Fiscal Year 2025. Bike education could be requested as a budget amendment for programming projects. Bike education and Capital Bikeshare Stations can be included in the Community Budget Priorities Survey: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/951/Budget>

(2) As part of the **City Update**, Bryan started with a letter to support a **Twinbrook Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge** for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Community Planning application (see attached). This application proposes to evaluate the railroad tracks crossing in the Twinbrook neighborhood and look at four options for this. Jonathan motioned to approve the letter with suggested changes; Sophie seconded.

The Town Center road diet has installed bike lanes on E Middle and Washington Streets. Please email Mayor and City Council as well as City staff with any feedback. They have already received some negative comments. The **Report a Concern** link also good for reporting positive comments: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/Report-a-Concern-14/Report-a-Concern-261>

A contract has been awarded for the bike lanes on Martins Lane between Mannakee and N. Washington. This has been funded by Maryland Bikeways program and moving forward to a design study. The bike counters will also be moving forward to installation. Funded by a state grant, the project on N Stonestreet is also moving forward.

Bryan read the letter he forwarded to the listserve about the **Pedestrian Master Plan**. (see attached). Jake motioned to approve the letter; Sophie seconded. Recommendations included (1) support shared-use paths that are wider (10 to 14 feet) to fit all users traffic (Olivia motioned, Kyle seconded); (2) improve and add lighting for pedestrian and bicycle safety with utility reflective marking along all shared-use paths (Jonathan motioned, Jake seconded); (3) Unity Bridge recommendations for the City to work with WMATA for more green space, better curb-cuts, entrance tamps and security cameras (Sophie motioned; Olivia seconded); (4) incorporating bicycle facilities from the Bikeway Master Plan as part of the Complete Street

program. As well as supporting several action items including advocating the State for replacing contributory negligence; prioritizing City's snow and ice removal process and evaluation of signalized intersections for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

(3) Shannon shared the **DC Family Bike Fest**, which focuses on youth and family biking; offers test riding cargo bikes; and hosts balance bikes parade and races. She presented this idea and hopes to have support for a similar festival in the Rockville Town Center with booths from WABA and other vendors in the summer or fall of 2024. More discussion and thought at the next meeting.

She mentioned that afterschool programs can have funding for bike ad safety education. WABA offers a train-a-trainer program which could be funded this way or by the Recreation Department. More discussion at the next meeting.

(4) To celebrate, Bryan's award, Nancy proposed the **October 4 meeting** be in-person at City Hall. Sophie will look at options for outdoor meeting with food or drink options.

(5) Sophie discussed dates for **upcoming rides** and requested ride leaders and sweeps. She will also send the Google doc to the listserve for others to sign-up:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YCPum2GpdZiuYzvEnUAbMDrBAv7E9imQNVyZVsQc4PQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Tabled for next meeting:

- Debriefing from Town Center Ride with City Planners on August 27 organized by Christopher Meyers, Principal Planner, Rockville Planning Department.
- Items to request from the city 1) more bike parking at the RSFC, 2) more bikeshare stations in Town Center and in neighborhoods.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood