



KEVIN KAMENETZ
County Executive

ANDREA VAN ARSDALE, *Director*
Department of Planning

BALTIMORE COUNTY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Sheldon S. Epstein, Chair

--APPROVED NOVEMBER 15, 2016--

MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, September 13, 2016
4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Sheldon Epstein, Jared Barnhart, Nate Evans, Jim Kelly, Allysha Lorber, Charlie Murphy, Myron Williams, Mike Filsinger, Pat McDougall

Absent: Harry Bhandari, Grace Bristol, Ted Levin, Francis Taylor, Robert Barrett, Linda Grossman

Department of Planning staff present included Kathy Schlabach, Janice Graves, and Jessie Bialek.

Note: Member Grace Bristol was present in the audience.

1. Introduction of Members and Announcements

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting at 4:02 p.m. Mr. Epstein asked the members to introduce themselves. Mr. Epstein then made a few announcements:

- He welcomed the new member, Jared Barnhart.
- The Department of Public Works is planning to improve Windsor Mill Road (between Woodlawn Drive and Featherbed Lane). There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, September 14th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Woodlawn Community Center.
- The Department of Planning and the Department of Public Works are holding a community input meeting on Thursday, September 29th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Southwest Academy, for the Security-Ingleside Loop Phase One and Two project. Bicycle lanes and sharrows are proposed for a signed bike route.
- Please distribute either of the fliers for these two events to any interested citizens.
- The Baltimore County Planning Board welcomes citizens to participate in the annual review of the Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2018 through 2023. The meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20th in the Jefferson Building starting at 5:00 p.m.

2. Review of Today's Agenda

Mr. Epstein stated that there were no changes to the agenda that had been previously sent to the committee members.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes of March 8, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Epstein called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the March 8, 2016 meeting. Mr. Jim Kelly made the motion and Mr. Jared Barnhart seconded. The approval was unanimous.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes of April 12, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Epstein called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 12, 2016 meeting. Mr. Charlie Murphy asked that a correction to be made to list him as being present at the meeting. Mr. Jim Kelly made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction and Mr. Murphy seconded. The approval was unanimous.

5. Special Presentation: Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition, Jim Brown, Manager of Trail Development, Rails to Trails Conservancy

Mr. Epstein welcomed Mr. Jim Brown, Manager of Trail Development, Rails to Trails Conservancy to begin his presentation. Mr. Brown explained that the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) is a national non-profit that is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. They are currently working on the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network in Baltimore City. The network would consist of a 30-mile loop connecting existing trails and linking downtown with residential neighborhoods, universities, transit hubs and open space areas. They are currently conducting corridor explorations with BGE for use of their power line right-of-ways and Norfolk Southern Railroad, who owns rail lines in the industrial areas of the east side of the city. The existing trail network is off-road, but the proposed links would be both on-road and off-road, and will be separated from traffic if they have to be on-road.

Twenty of the thirty miles of the loop have already been completed. Completing the loop will also boost economic development as well as ensuring public health equity for all. RTC is also in the process of building relationships with the local government, as well as the business community, such as Under Armour. They are looking for a catchier name, using professionals in the marketing industry. They have a Plan 4 Health Grant from the CDC and they've also applied for funding from the France-Merrick foundation for the cost of a 30% design feasibility study.

Mr. Brown stated that the current trails go to the borders of Baltimore County and was interested to see what work Baltimore County has done. He asked about the gap between Hunt Valley and

the Jones Falls Trail. He also stated that the Port Covington Trail could connect to the BWI Trail and Catonsville Rails to Trails (CRTT) could connect to the Gwynns Falls Trail. He also spoke of the Grand History Trail, which would take tourists along historic sites, such as Baltimore City to the NCR Trail, then to York, Gettysburg and the C and O Canal.

After Mr. Brown's presentation there was some discussion and questions from the committee. Mr. Murphy wanted to know if Mr. Brown had spoken to any council members and he said that he had not. Mr. Murphy replied that he could speak to Councilman Quirk about the effort. Ms. Allysha Lorber stated that she thought the proposal was exciting, but didn't know how the committee could help. Mr. Brown said that engaging the private sector is very helpful as well as helping with the inevitable opposition. Mr. Epstein asked if Baltimore City has any money in their CIP for 2017. Mr. Brown answered no, that they currently have private funding for design and feasibility and that the City does not have the resources, but would be willing to help RTC get state or federal funding. Mr. Pat McDougall asked if he could have the BGE property/right-of-way contact information. Mr. Epstein thanked Mr. Brown for his time and said how informative the presentation and discussion had been.

6. DPW Report and Discussion: FY 2017 Repaving Projects

Mr. Epstein asked Ms. Kathy Schlabach to introduce the report. Ms. Schlabach stated that every year the staff looks at the repaving list from DPW to see if there is any room on the roads that are getting repaved to be restriped and for bike lanes to be added. Ms. Noelle Smith from DPW prepared a report taking into account the BLOC for each one that had been identified. For many of the proposed 3-a and 3-b projects, the BLOC was found to be very low, particularly at intersections. The Eastern and Western Bicycle and Pedestrian plans are also approximately 10 years old, and traffic has increased significantly since then. Ms. Schlabach stated that she believes that the public is more interested in off-road trails than on-road improvements and that there are only a couple of places where applying for on-road grants would be feasible. She continued that putting in these short segments will not lead to any connectivity in the near future and that if the committee would like to continue to apply for on-road facility grants, we should do so in the places where we've already started trying to build a network. She then asked the committee's opinion.

Mr. Murphy stated that people do want to ride on the roads and will still ride even if there aren't any bicycle facilities there. Ms. Lorber said that there are issues everywhere and that it would be remiss of the pedestrian and bicycle committee not to address them. She did agree that having a focus would help get things done and that trails are a great amenity, but how would we go about obtaining funding for them? Ms. Schlabach replied that she believes that the transportation alternatives program no longer requires 30% design and that we could use the MD Bikeways Grants to pay for a match. She also mentioned that it is important to establish a friends of the trail group as well. Mr. Jared Barnhart stated that he did not think that putting in small segments of bicycle facilities was disjointed and mentioned that is what Baltimore City did and now they have a well-connected network. He also mentioned that in Sweden people can walk or bike

everywhere and that we need to think outside the box. Mr. Kelly then asked Mr. Brown who got their grant. Mr. Brown replied that RTC obtained the grant since the City did not have the resources to get it off the ground. Mr. Brown also stated that France-Merrick had previously awarded grants for the Jones Falls Trail.

7. Staff Report and Vote: Revised 2016 and Proposed 2017 Meeting Schedule and Work Program

Mr. Epstein then called on Ms. Jessie Bialek to present the meeting schedule and work program for 2017. Ms. Bialek stated that there was a date change for the November 2016 meeting since the original date was on Election Day. She also stated that the Staff Report and Vote on the Bicycle and Sidewalk Waiver Fee-in-Lieu Report was moved back to the work program list. Mr. Epstein then called for a motion to approve the Revised 2016 and Proposed 2017 Meeting Schedule and Work Program. Mr. Myron Williams made the motion and Mr. Murphy seconded. The approval was unanimous.

8. Other Business

Mr. Epstein asked if any members have any other business to bring to the attention of the committee. Mr. McDougall mentioned that the County was in the process of cleaning up the No. 9 Trolley Trail from the storm that flooded Ellicott City. He also mentioned that there will be a Baltimore Youth Cycling Event at Mt. Vista Park next month.

9. Adjournment

The chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kelly made the motion and Mr. Williams seconded. The approval was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.