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

--DRAFT--

MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, March 13, 2018
4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Sheldon Epstein, Ted Levin, Jared Barnhart, Harry Bhandari, Charlie Murphy, Fran Taylor, Linda Grossman, Kris Nebre (filling in for Mike Filsinger)

Absent: Grace Bristol, Nate Evans, Allysha Lorber, Robert Barrett

Department of Planning staff present included Jessie Bialek and Kristopher Weaver.

1. Introduction of Members and Announcements

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting at 4:03 p.m. Mr. Epstein asked the members to introduce themselves. There were no announcements.

2. Review of Today's Agenda

Mr. Epstein stated that there was one change to the agenda that had been previously sent to the committee members. There will not be a report from Mr. Nate Evans on the BMC BPAG.

3. Approval of Meeting Notes of November 14, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Epstein called for a motion to approve the meeting notes from the November 14, 2017 meeting. Mr. Jared Barnhart made the motion and Mr. Fran Taylor seconded. The approval was unanimous.

4. Reports from District Committee Members on Projects

Mr. Epstein asked the committee members to report on any projects in their respective districts starting with District 1.

Mr. Charlie Murphy representing District 1 stated that CRTT would still need approximately \$400,000 to complete the Bloomsbury Crossing Grant project and traverse Rt. 40. He stated that the signage has been completed connecting the Short Line trail inside and outside of the beltway, and to Spring Grove. He also stated that they Frederick Road cut through has been completed and will have a mural painted along the fence. CRTT hosted a festival and raised \$11,000 for trail maintenance. Lastly, Mr. Murphy mentioned that CRTT will be hosting Bike to Work Day in two months' time.

Mr. Ted Levin representing District 2 stated that the Old Pikesville Armory is surplus property and that Senator Bob Zurkin is forming a bicycle and pedestrian committee and is interested in using the Armory, but no meetings of the committee have been scheduled as of this meeting.

Mr. Harry Bhandari representing District 6 stated that the Friends of the Northeast Trail group has been reactivated and has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 20th at the church next to Fullerton Elementary School. He said that the proposed alignment of the Northeast Trail connects many parks and schools from Hazelwood Avenue to Perry Hall and that there are several active community groups in support of the trail, such as the Linover Community Association.

Mr. Fran Taylor representing District 7 stated that they would still like a bicycle connection between the Merritt Blvd bike lanes, Delvale Ave and Merritt Ave since all of the storm drain grates have been replaced. They are also interested in a citizen's Soldiers Trail that follows Bear Creek and ends at North Point State Park Battlefield at Trappe Road. He stated that a pedestrian bridge has been built, but that there are some ownership issues and they are working with NeighborSpace to try and get it sorted out. He also stated that they would like to see a revamped Essex street scape to the Back River Neck Bridge with a bike area set aside. He also stated that they North Point Heritage Greenway Trail is now out for bidding from North Point State Park to Todd's Inheritance.

8. Other Business

Mr. Epstein asked if there was any other business. There was no official business, but the committee members did raise some points of discussion.

Mr. Murphy wanted to know if there was any progress on getting new appointees to the Committee. Ms. Jessie Bialek replied that there have been internal discussions, but nothing official has transpired. He asked the other committee members if they were going to host any pit stops for Bike to Work Day on May 18th.

Mr. Levin wanted to know what types of bicycles are being used on the bike paths at Daniels in Patapsco State Park. He stated that he was at the park recently and saw oversized tires marks and was concerned that they might be from motorized bikes. He also wanted to know what the rules are for using motorized bikes on the trails since some people with disabilities utilize these type of bicycles.

Mr. Taylor stated that they have been working with Trade Point Atlantic trying to figure out how they can get cyclists and pedestrians to their site. Interior to their site they have bike and pedestrian facilities, but people still have to drive from the surrounding communities to get there, making alternative transportation to the site a challenge.

Mr. Bhandari stated that they would like to connect the Northeast Trail to the Herring Run trail in Baltimore City and Hazelwood Ave is the closest connecting point.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Epstein asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Murphy made the motion and Mr. Bhandari seconded. The approval was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CITIZEN INPUT MEETING SUMMARY

March 13, 2018

Verbal comments were received from eight citizens.

Written comments were received from an additional five citizens.

(1) Kristie Weinberger: She stated that she moved to Baltimore County from Minneapolis and that city is very bike friendly and designed with the biking commuter in mind. She stated that the communities are safer because of this and that she knows it's an expensive endeavor to make an area more bike friendly, but she believes it's worth the cost. (Verbal)

(2) Roz Johnson: She grew up in Baltimore City and attended college in Washington DC, where she used a bicycle as her primary mode of transportation, but ever since moving to Baltimore County she is not comfortable riding the 5 miles from Parkville to Towson where she works. She would like to see more state finding used for additional bike infrastructure. (Verbal)

(3) Mike Seponic: He uses his bike for transportation along York Road and wanted to point out that most of the traffic lights do not have a bicycle sensor making them virtually impossible to trigger. (Verbal)

(4) Jake Wilson: He would like to see more Trolley #9 trails around the County. He understands that there aren't a lot of opportunities due to a lack of funding sources, however he would like to see the County invest some money (approximately 35%) to at least be used for the planning stages of bike and trail projects. (Verbal)

(5) Bob Clancy: He enjoys riding recreationally and uses the NCR Trail in the spring and summer. He wanted to point out that in Florida they use solar powered bicycle signals. (Verbal)

(6) Tim Stadler: He stated that in the North Point Community, especially in the 6500-7500 block of North Point Road near the Edgemere Senior Center and County Park there aren't any safe pedestrian crossings and the center and park are heavily used. There aren't any sidewalks in the area so people have to drive there even though they would walk if they were able and it was safe to do so. There are also a lack of safe crossings near Edgemere Elementary school where the local recreation council uses the fields. (Verbal)

(7) Jeremy: He lives in Dundalk and would prefer to bike to places in Baltimore County as he does in Baltimore City, but isn't able due to the lack of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. He would very much like to bike down to North Point State Park and Fort Howard, but is unable due to safety reasons. (Verbal)

(8) Linda Eisenberg: She lives off of Nicodemus Road which is right outside of Owings Mills and feels that this area of the County is being underserved despite being a designated growth area. She stated that there are some bike trails and lanes, but they are very disjointed and there isn't much sidewalk connectivity. She is proposing a bike-ped path of ~2,720 feet in length along Nicodemus Road in the shoulder which is about 9 feet wide. (Verbal with a map)

(9) Barbara Risacher: She lives in Joppa MD and belongs to a group that is working on expanding the hiking trails in the Gunpowder Park and connecting the trails from the Big Gunpowder to the Little Gunpowder. And is hoping to get the Gunpowder Parks and the green spaces included as Maryland Heritage areas. The bridges on Rt. 40 over these two rivers are to be replaced this year and the Gunpowder Park is situated on both sides of Rt. 40. This group has been asking SHA to include bicycle and pedestrian safety passage over the new bridges. To date SHA has included a 10 foot shoulder on the outside lane and this group would like Baltimore County's support for the additional safety measures. (Written)

(10) Ben Saeli: His family supports biking paths on the streets and in the parks and along the Herring Run. They enjoy biking as a healthy family activity. He often commutes to his teaching job at Overlea High School, and there are no biking paths between there and Parkville. His children would love to bike to Dumbarton and THS, and their friends' houses, and the mall, and their volunteer service activities, but due to the lack of infrastructure they are unable at this time. (Written)

(11) Terri Rigby: Would like the County to consider a multi-use recreational trail near North Point State Park. She believes that it would be a fantastic way to showcase the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, provide health benefits to active recreation, and learn of the historical significance of the North Point peninsula. (Written)

(12) Shannon MacDonald: Her community of Knollwood, has been working to develop a section of pathway linking green space along Stephenson Road to Aigburth Road and is imploring the County to link the neighborhoods and increase the health and well-being of the citizens. Their desire is to be a part of a larger community is what draws them to this master plan and believes it would be a vast improvement to the current conditions. (Written with a map)

(13) Sheldon C. Smith, CRTT: CRTT is requesting that the County fund the next phase of the design effort for Bloomsbury Trail Ramp, for the amount of \$15,000. This second phase of the design would enable us to pursue the next phased of the project by obtaining contractor bids against a completed design, so that we can pursue Federal, State and/or County funding of the actual construction of the proposed Ramp. (Written)