

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIKEWAY AND WALKABILITY COMMITTEE

September 7, 2016

These meeting minutes represent an “action minute” format. The Bikeway and Walkability Committee (BWC) of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in a regular meeting session at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph Taboada at 6:30 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Senior Center 695 West 19th Street, Costa Mesa, California.

2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Members Present: Chair, Ralph Taboada,
Vice-Chair, Cynthia McDonald,
Member Cindy Brenneman,
Member Jim Erickson,
Member Leah Ersoylu,
Member Maggie Gallagher,
Member Richard Huffman II,
Member James Kane,
Member Andrea Marr,
Member John C. Merrill,
Member Brian Valles
Dr. Kirk Bauermeister, NMUSD,
Brent Stoll, Chamber of Commerce

Committee Members Absent: Member Russell Baldwin,
Member Jim Kerins,
Member Flo Martin,

City Council Liaison Present: Katrina Foley

Staff Present: Raja Sethuraman, Transportation Services Manager

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Beth Refakes expressed concerns about the rocks along the new bicycle trail indicating that it may be a potential hazard to the public and may be a problem with people falling.
2. Roy Duvall commented that he observed the contractor moving rocks and that it looks lot better now. Mr. Duvall commented on the need for bike racks at City Hall and Senior Center.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Member John Merrill discussed about comments on various forums on why Costa Mesa was not selected for grant funding from OCTA. He mentioned that Costa Mesa's projects did not score well and probably not a lot of thought went into those applications.
2. Member Maggie Gallagher mentioned the ongoing Coastal Commission hearing on Banning Ranch and indicated that it makes the Committee's work important if Banning Ranch is approved.
3. Member James Kane agreed with Mr. Duvall about the need for bike racks at City Hall and Senior Center.
4. Chair Taboada requested committee members to copy him on any communication to City and others on committee issues.

5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Council Member Foley discussed her schedule and mentioned that she would like to attend more Committee meetings if her schedule allows. She has confidence in the Committee members to continue their work in advocating for Active Transportation.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

Raja Sethuraman, Transportation Services Manager, responded to Beth Refakes' comment on the Harbor Cornerstone Trail rocks confirming Roy Duvall's observation about moving larger, angular rocks from the edge of the concrete path. He also addressed Member Merrill's comments on grant funding, he assured him that the City competes for limited grant funding and sometimes are not successful. He assured him that the City keeps trying to secure funding for projects even if they are not funded in the first try. He mentioned the City has several ongoing grant funded projects at this time.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ralph Taboada opened the items for discussion.

After discussion from the committee, Member Richard Huffman II made a motion to approve the August 3, 2016, meeting minutes, with a correction to the numbering of the items. Member James Kane seconded the motion, the motion passed 12-0, with Members Cindy Brenneman and Andrea Marr abstaining.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Harbor Boulevard Bicycle Trail Opening – Discussion

Chair Ralph Taboada opened the item for discussion. Raja Sethuraman, Transportation Services Manager provided updates on City efforts including flyer and planning for the event. Member Kirk Bauermeister requested an electronic version of flyer to be sent to him for distribution to the schools. He also suggested having cheerleaders at the water stations. Member Jim Erickson offered to promote this event at bike shops.

b. Prioritization of Goals, Objectives, Recommendations

Chair Ralph Taboada opened the item for discussion. Raja Sethuraman, Transportation Services Manager thanked Member Leah Ersoylu for her assistance in setting up the survey for this item. Staff received 9 responses from the Committee members for this survey. After discussion, the Committee recommended to provide an additional month to allow for more responses. Member Jim Erickson made the motion to continue this item for next month. Member Leah Ersoylu seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Prioritization of Bicycle Master Plan Projects

Chair Ralph Taboada opened the item for discussion. Raja Sethuraman, Transportation Services Manager mentioned that as of the meeting, staff had only received three responses from Committee members for this survey. The Committee recommended to provide an additional month to allow for more responses. Chair Ralph Taboada made a motion to continue this item for next month, Member Brent Stoll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Vacation of Excess Right-of-Way on 17th Street and on Superior Avenue

Chair Ralph Taboada indicated that the applicant Mr. Brandon Johnson called him to discuss this item with him following the City Council meeting. Raja Sethuraman, Transportation Services Manager, made a presentation for this item. Following Committee discussion on the opportunities to provide bicycle facilities on West 17th Street, Mr. Brandon Johnson, applicant, provided a presentation on project timeline, highlighting project benefits. Council Member Foley clarified that the subject right-of-way is not owned by City at this time. Member Richard Huffman II discussed landscaping and opportunities to add shade trees along sidewalk. The applicant mentioned the addition of several trees as part of the project and is willing to consider also adding trees in the parkway. After discussion, Member John Merrill made a motion to receive and file the item, Member Cindy Brenneman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Items for Next Agenda

1. Cornerstone Harbor Boulevard Bicycle Trail Opening
2. Prioritization of Goals, Objectives, Recommendations
3. Prioritization of Bicycle Master Plan Projects

10. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Next regular meeting October 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Senior Center, 695 West 19th Street, Costa Mesa, California.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by:



Ralph Taboada, Chair