

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIKEWAY AND WALKABILITY COMMITTEE

December 7, 2016

These meeting minutes represent an “action minute” format. A copy of the meeting audio tape can be obtained at the Public Services Department’s front counter located on the 4th floor of Costa Mesa City Hall. 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, December 7, 2016.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph Taboada at 6:34 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 Russell Baldwin,
Member Cindy Brenneman,
Member Leah Ersoylu,
Member Maggie Gallagher,
Member Richard Huffman II,
Member James Kane,
Member Jim Kerins,
Member Andrea Marr,
Member Flo Martin,
Member John C. Merrill,
Brent Stoll, Chamber of Commerce

Committee Members Absent: Member Jim Erickson,
Member Brian Valles,
Dr. Kirk Bauermeister, NMUSD

City Council Liaison Present: Katrina Foley

Staff Present: Raja Sethuraman, Interim Public Services Director,
Elizabeth Palacio, Engineering Technician

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Geoff West, wished the committee a “Merry Christmas”.
2. Member of the public wished the committee “Happy Holidays”.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Member Flo Martin shared a PowerPoint slideshow of concerns on Merrimac Way near Harbor Boulevard. She shared concerns brought to her attention by Roy Duval of the OCC Food Riders Club. Concerns included bicyclist (not part of the club) riding on the opposite side of the street during one of the club's recent bike rides. There are concerns with vehicles illegally parking at the northeast corner of Harbor Boulevard and Merrimac Way, adjacent to the property that is being developed.
2. Member Russell Baldwin mentioned he also rides on Merrimac Way and could understand, with the lack of sidewalk on the south side, why riders would choose to ride on the wrong side of the street.
3. Member Cindy Brenneman shared concern with tree debris along sidewalks and bike lanes. Chair Ralph Taboada suggested having expedited clean up after rain or wind events.
4. Member Jim Kerins shared that he initially thought the W. 19th Street Bike Trail Project was in jeopardy during last night's City Council meeting. He is excited that the project is moving forward. He later suggested the consultant designing the W. 19th Bike Trail, consider an elevated wooden boardwalk to mitigate environmental impacts.
5. Maggie Gallagher is concerned with the lights along the new Harbor Cornerstone Trail not working yet. She asked staff for the status of powering the lights.
6. Member James Kane agreed with the other members regarding Merrimac Way. He has seen and also ridden on the sidewalk on the north side, due to the lack of bike lanes and sidewalk on the south side. He requested an update on the W. 19th Bike Trail Project. He asked staff for the status of the Placentia Avenue Bike Crossing Signal at Fairview Park. He shared a conversation he had with Raja Sethuraman, Interim Public Services Director, regarding bike rack vendors he met at various meetings. He also shared concerns with the expansion breaks on the Harbor Cornerstone Trail causing bumps. Hopes this can be fixed by the contractor.
7. Vice Chair Cynthia McDonald shared a concern with a sharp turn, riding on the northwest corner of Harbor Boulevard and Fair Drive, at the end of the Harbor Cornerstone Trail. She noted there was a reflector installed, however it remains inadequate. She would like that to be addressed by staff.
8. Chair Ralph Taboada mentioned that he heard on the radio that in Copenhagen 50% of commuters commute by bicycle. He brought up the W. 19th Street Bike Trail discussion at last night's City Council Meeting. The bulk of the discussion was focused on the environmental review component. He would like to be more proactive and ask more questions regarding projects.

5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Council Member Katrina Foley requested a list of all current bike trail projects, anything that might include a bike trail. A comprehensive list that specifies what phase the project is in.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

Raja Sethuraman, Interim Public Services Director, shared some of the history behind the W. 19th Street Bike Trail Project. He went over a few of the complications the project has encountered recently. He addressed the Merrimac Way safety concerns, noting that there has been two collisions, none of them bike related. The right-of-way on the south side of Merrimac Way is not wide enough to build a sidewalk. He addressed committee member's comments regarding the debris on bike trails and sidewalks during the recent wind event. He informed the committee that the last wind event produced 59 calls for service for tree related issues. City maintenance crews are actively working on resolving those issues. He addressed the issue with lack of lighting on the Harbor Cornerstone Trail. There is an issue with an easement between the City and the adjacent property. Southern California Edison will not power the lighting along the trail until the easement issue is resolved. The City is looking for alternative options to provide power for the lights.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Ralph Taboada opened the items for discussion.

After discussion from the committee, Vice-Chair Cynthia McDonald made a motion to approve the November 2, 2016, meeting minutes with a correction. Member Maggie Gallagher seconded the motion, the motion passed 6-0, with Members Andrea Marr, Jim Kerins, Leah Ersoylu, and Cindy Brennenman abstaining from the vote.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Prioritization of Bicycle Master Plan Projects

Raja Sethuraman, Interim Public Services Director, presented the latest version of the prioritized list of bicycle projects. He suggested adding projects to next year's budget that are easier to implement and conduct design and environmental phases on more complex projects. The committee worked together to develop a list of priority projects. The list is attached.

b. Bike Rack Update

Raja Sethuraman, Interim Public Services Director, updated the committee on the status of purchasing new bike racks. He informed the committee that the proposed bike racks have been ordered and are scheduled to be installed early next year at City Hall and the Senior Center.

c. CEQA Process

Raja Sethuraman, Interim Public Services Director, has spoken to Stantec about working on an official Bicycle Master Plan. This will require public meetings and meetings with this committee. He estimates it will take four to six months to make the map official.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Cancellation of January 2017 Meeting

Chair Ralph Taboada opened the items for discussion. After discussion from the committee, Member Andrea Marr made a motion to approve the cancellation of the January 4, 2017 regular meeting. Member Russell Baldwin seconded the motion, the motion passed with James Kane abstaining.

b. Items for Future Agenda

1. Goals and Objectives and Recommendations – discussion
2. Awareness Campaign for the 3-foot law – staff update
3. Update Bike Map and Incorporate Art Component – discussion
4. Bicycle Master Plan, Divide Committee by Area – discussion (March/April 2017)

10. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Next regular meeting February 1, 2017 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 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:



Ralph Taboada, Chair