

**2021.10.11 BPAC Minutes**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**  
**Virtual meeting**

**Attendees:**

**BPAC Members:** Eldon Boes, David Bouk, Sophia Chapman, Randy Cole, Mike Derby, Zack DesJardins, Jim Durham, Judith Fogel, Bob Hartt, Michael Menchel, Erin Meter, Ken Notis, Mike O'Neil, Mary-Jane Roth, Elizabeth Wright

**Past Members/Guests:**

**City staff:** Jane Davis

Meeting called to order – Erin Meter at 6:30 pm

**Increasing membership and awareness**

- Thinking about ways to get more people involved
- Potentially provide more handouts such as Josephine's postcards
- Concerted effort via social media
- Why should we be a member of BPAC?
  - Have a good canned answer such as discussing advocacy to change infrastructure and policy and events
  - Needed to make sure every current member could answer, what is in it for me? Why should we be a member?
  - Due to COVID-19, every organization has had a lower level of engagement
- Offer a chance to make a donation for folks who lack time to volunteer
- What should we consider doing?
  - Lots of riders and walks
  - Places to have a table or hanging out
- Asked for folks to talk to City Council on Saturday about Complete Streets staffing

**Virginia Bicycling Federation**

- Elected a new president, Brantley Tyndall
- Held a 4 hour in-person strategic planning event and will send board an updated strategic plan
  - 1st major goal area: State level advocacy, national level advocacy and other policy below the state level
  - 2nd major goal area: VBF has also plans to partner with additional organizations
  - 3rd major goal area: communications

- Legislative agenda is firming up (60 day legislative session from January through mid-March)
  - Line up sponsors and draft language in November
- Legislative items
  - Safety stop (AKA Idaho stop) has been studied over the past year
    - May get the State Police study group to endorse it
    - no evidence that it makes anything worse
    - Virginia state police has asked state police in states with the safety stop whether they have had an increase in crashes at stop signs
  - Bicyclists proceeding on lead pedestrian interval was suggested
  - E-bike tax credit or rebate
  - Replacing contributory negligence with comparative negligence
  - Double budget for trails Virginia from \$10 to \$20 million
  - State of Virginia to adopt a resolution to zero traffic fatalities
  - Having dedicated funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects
  - Broader use of safety speed cameras (dependent on industry)
  - Direct VDOT not to build unsafe infrastructure
- Plan to develop a VBF annual work plan
  - Determined by the size of the workforce (i.e. volunteers)

### **Project/Event updates:**

- BPAC Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) update – Mary-Jane
  - Talked to health community leaders who are overseeing the community health strategies
  - BPAC advocating for safer streets and getting information on healthier lifestyles through movements
- Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Group
  - Meeting on October 25 at 7 pm in person at Charles Houston
  - Main topic is a presentation by T&ES on issue of safety at the south Metro entrance
  - Plan was to have a phased approach to install improvements
    - Add a new pedestrian signal behind the trail
    - Now they are coming back to present something else
    - Can attend virtually but they had a lot of technical problems with

### hybrid meetings

- Upcoming Walks and Rides – Josephine
  - 12 people participated in the Del Ray murals walk on September 26.
  - Next event is a Del Ray halloween bike ride, Saturday October 30 at 7:00 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-bike-ride-in-del-ray-registration-189169329557>. Contact Josephine if you can volunteer as a ride leader or sweep.
  - We are also planning a veterans walk in Old Town, Sunday November 14 at 9:30 a.m. Details TBD.

### Subcommittee Reports

- Infrastructure subcommittee – Ken Notis, Chair
  - Talking to Council about Complete Streets staffing during public comment
  - Alexandria Mobility Plan approved by Transportation Commission and Planning Commission
  - Holmes Run Trail from Elizabeth Wright, severe storm wiped out embankment behind 4600 Duke St and Parks & Rec needs to consider a new foundation for the bridge. Alexandria Public Library installed some story boards along the trail for people to stop and read. Trails are now administered under T&ES, not Parks and Recreation. The City needs to reach out to stakeholders to help promote when a new program comes along. The story boards were never "announced" and their installation created questions and concerns, rather than creating positive buzz.
  - Closed the bridge on the Four Mile Run Trail (now routed for the wetland trail)
- Education subcommittee – Eldon Boes, Chair
  - Jane Davis is the new Safe Routes to School coordinator
  - Bicycling in the schools needs volunteers, much more intensive than ever before, must be a BPAC member to volunteer but if you are not a member, you can become one for free if you volunteer
  - 7-10 day process to be approved by ACPS
  - BITS Sign-up: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mKtGAPlwjHRfNzlc-ES91fCfvBBZF6CEBztH-6cP2SbE/edit?usp=sharing>
  - ACPS Volunteer application: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/volunteer>. Be sure to include a note that you are a member of Alexandria BPAC, and let Jane know when you have applied. She can help ensure expeditious handling of your application
  - Expect to hold 1-2 bike rodeos this fall but there is nothing on the schedule

- Communications – Judith Fogel
  - Planning to relaunch the newsletter
  - Potential partnership with her synagogue's walking group

### **Boards and Commissions Updates**

- No updates

### **BPAC Business items**

- September minutes approved
- Treasurer's report: \$14,035.24 balance
  - NVRC sent payment for Smart Cycling (\$1,605.50)
  - \$150 expense to pay for a class instructor
- Mary-Jane to chair next month

### **Public Comment**