

**2022.5.9 BPAC Minutes**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**  
**Virtual meeting**

**Attendees:**

**BPAC Members:** Eldon Boes, David Bouk, Zack DesJardins, Jim Durham, Judith Fogel, Bob Hartt, Casey Kane, Josephine Liu, Michael Menchel, Erin Meter, Ken Notis, Mike O'Neil, Mary-Jane Roth, Elizabeth Wright

**Past Members/Guests:**

**City staff:** Kristen Donley (ACPS)

Meeting called to order – Ken Notis at 6:30 pm

**Guest speaker: Alyia Gaskins**

- Newly elected Councilmember
- Lives in Cameron Station and lived in Alexandria in the past six years and has a background in public health
- She primarily walks and pushes a stroller
- in terms of walking and bicycling, Alyia became engaged in pedestrian safety when she worked at the National League of Cities
  - Worked with National Safe Routes to School program
  - She explored what does it take to implement Complete Streets
  - She pushed cities to become Vision Zero cities
  - Joined the Alexandria Transportation Commission to give voice to walking and bicycling and health-related issues
- Councilmember Sarah Bagley asked staff what else was needed to implement Complete Streets. While city staff stated they needed more employees to implement projects, they also identified 250 improvements from the walk audits around schools.
- Ms. Gaskins has worked with Southern Towers parents/residents and dangers their children.
- Two areas for improvements
  - Collaboration with the schools, lots of parents continue to identify a lack of safe routes to schools
  - Culture change about how we talk about safety, don not know how to solve that people feel that Complete Streets is an attack
- Jim Durham asked about N Beauregard St being 35 mph instead of 25 mph, asked that Seminary Road in front of Francis Hammond speed limit be reduced from 25 to 15 mph during school zones and that W Braddock Rd be reduced from 35 to 25 mph. Would you be willing to ask the city manager to reduce the speed limit on those three roads? Ms. Gaskins replied that she was is a very

supportive of the reduction of speed limits and supporting the Minnie Howard plan to make W Braddock Rd safer.

- Casey Kane asked about speed limits on S Pickett St and Yaokum Pkwy. She noted the West End equity issue around speed limits.
- Kristen Donnelly noted the parking enforcement is needed at N Beauregard St and at Patrick Henry school because without it, it is not very safe for children to walk. Of 14 elementary schools, nine have reached out with pedestrian safety issues. She suggested that there needs to be some sort of follow-up to parents who say that it is not safe to walk or bike. Ms. Gaskins stated that middle schools will get walk audits, as school enrollment goes and they need need to support growing walkers and bikers.
- Zack DesJardins echoed what Jim and Casey said about speed limits, why not citywide 25 mph? There are only 10 streets left with speed limits above 25 mph.
- Zack noted that a number of years ago, the City Council passed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan with a map showing which streets should get bicycle lanes. With many city plans, a Council vote is all that is needed to move forward. But with Complete Streets and bike lanes, staff ask everyone if they want a bike lane at all.
- Other cities such as Washington, DC and Cambridge, MA have said if a bike lane is in the plan, it must get built. It moves the question from if a street should get a bike lane to how it should be built.
  - Ms. Gaskins stated that we should move past this idea of always asking, “mother may I” on many projects
  - Jim Durham noted that Duke St in Motion is not using this approach as the city staff say that the 2012 plan is the plan of record and will accept that as the baseline approved by the Council
- Bob Hartt expressed his appreciation that city staff added a HAWK pedestrian crossing signal at W Braddock Rd near N Early St although noticed a marked increase in speeding along W Braddock Rd.
- Ken Notis mentioned the developers always include people walking and biking in their ads and concept plan. What extend does Council see the connection between biking, walking and economic growth? Alyia thought that the Council needs some learning about. Noticed Council sees thinks in silos. Start looking at things. have a little work to do as a Council and clearly communicate to staff
- What can we as BPAC and other advocates to advance some of things?
  - Ms. Gasins noted that the Environmental Policy Commission and BPAC are the top communicators and that we do it in a way that proposes solutions and show that we either did the action or did not do the action.
  - Ms. Gaskins suggested identifying intersections and connections by bringing in other voices to BPAC for housing and others and suggested one on ones with Council members when specific projects come up.

## **Project/Event updates:**

- CHIP update – Mary-Jane
  - presented to Partnership for Healthier Alexandria and asked us to come back with specific asks, biggest ones is some place to host a website to find free and low cost activities which different organizations provide
  - looking for assistance to communicate with non-English speakers
- Upcoming Walks and Rides – Josephine
  - May 20 is Bike to Work day
    - BPAC has provided enough volunteers for staffing the three locations including a master of ceremonies
    - Bike maps will be provided
  - May 21 is Transportation History walk
- Well Del Ray (June 11)
  - Need to provide certificates of insurance (Josephine to take after that)
  - Will include a packet to include in our social media
  - June 1 vendor happy hour at Pork Barrel BBQ for 7-9 pm and go over day of event information
  - Approved \$150 for the event
  - Erin suggested that we ask people what change would you like to see in your neighborhood?

## **Subcommittee Reports**

- Infrastructure subcommittee – Ken Notis, Chair
  - Obtained a 3rd Complete Streets staff person (engineer)
  - Complete Streets five year work plan is the next step, will come back to Transportation Commission and Traffic and Parking Board
  - Pushed for pedestrian access to bus shelters, Duke St in Motion
- Education subcommittee – Eldon Boes, Chair
  - Most important issue is the funding for Safe Routes to Schools to ensure the specialist position is funded for next year
  - Bicycling in the Schools (BITS) is running well
  - Will have a bike rodeo on June 3, sponsored by Patrick Henry and Polk PTAs
  - Jim Durham continues to work with PTA Council on a letter to T&ES with a lot of outstanding safe routes to school items (speed limit changes, automated enforcement, not enough crossing guard positions funded, etc and will ask for a follow-up meeting

- Communications – Judith Fogel
  - Will be master of ceremonies at Carlyle for Bike to Work day
- Transportation Commission-Casey Kane
  - Prioritizing long-range unfunded projects

### **Chairmans topics**

- Yellow Line to be closed in September
- Quick hit projects
  - start coming up with specific things such as a North-south route in Old Town and some one-time capital climate funding
- Quarterly NOVA advocacy meetings
  - Ken to attend
- Bylaw change not needed at this time as Ken is already delegating some authorities

### **BPAC Business items**

- Treasurer's report: \$15,377.16 balance
  - Paid for vests, banners and a filing
- April minutes approved
  - Mary-Jane prepared a document and slides for presentation at the Tuesday meeting for the Partnership for Healthier.
- Future in-person meetings
  - Outdoor meeting option such as Fort Ward
  - Casey and Erin suggested doing a hybrid meeting approach and suggested a meet-up event
  - for a social event, Josephine offered her courtyard, there is a grill and will do a doodle poll
  - Will ask to table at a WABA Sweet Ride

### **Public Comment**