

2022.11.14 BPAC Minutes
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Virtual meeting

Attendees:

BPAC Members: Eldon Boes, David Bouk, Randy Cole, Zachary DesJardins, Judith Fogel, Bob Hartt, Josephine Liu, Ken Notis, Nicole Radshaw, Mary-Jane Roth, Noah Sepsenwol, Elizabeth Wright

Past Members/Guests: Bruce Coffman

City staff: Jack Broward, Deputy Director, Park Services, City of Alexandria

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

Speaker: Jack Broward, Deputy Director, Park Services, City of Alexandria

- Grew up in west end and has worked for the Parks Department since 1987, having done almost every job in the department
- Shared use trails (hard surface) were transferred to the Parks Department from T&ES

Trail work done in the past 12 months

- Beatley Bridge over Holmes Run was recently resurfaced, result came out very well and Parks Department plans to use the same material in other projects
- Dora Kelly Concrete Trail repairs have shored up the path
- Holmes Run Trail concrete repairs finished a week or two ago near Harris Teeter
- Mt. Jefferson Park Trail received asphalt repairs and park will reopen in the 3rd week of December from Route 1 to Commonwealth Ave
- Holmes Run Trail project is divided into four subprojects
 - Holmes Run Trail at Dora Kelly Park
 - Holmes Run Trail bridge at Morgan St cul-de-sac
 - Holmes Run Trail at North Ripley St
 - Holmes Run Trail bridge at 4600 Duke St
 - Design completed and construction contract awarded, pre-construction meeting mid-December
 - Completed by the spring
 - Restore embankments
 - Replacement will be 15-20' longer to deter future flooding
- Holmes Run Trail between Morgan St to Ripley St access ramp
 - Design is on schedule for completion for February 2023 (reviewed and send back 60% design plans), pre-construction meeting is planned for December 2022

- Construction to start mid-late summer of 2023 and one year of additional construction
- Received a \$5 million grant to replace Dora Kelley Park Fair Weather Crossing with a higher level bridge
 - also put in funding for a design in FY23 budget and this money would be available in FY26
 - VDOT said if the Parks Department gets their design in early, it could be done at the same time, will have a design charrette with internal stakeholders
 - Would be slightly larger culvert bridge
 - or it could be similar in design to the Ripley Crossing bridge
 - Will include a concrete deck
 - Will delay the opening date of the Holmes Run Trail but will avoid closing the trail again and this closure would be shorter
 - Larger barrier is I-395
 - Has ridden a bike every street including Duke St over 395
- Four Mile Run Bridge update
 - Closed in March 2022
 - August 2022 design contract awarded
 - Staff reviewing 30% design plans and 90% design plans January 2023
 - Discovered a hole in the bridge on August 11
 - Construction start in June 2023 and will build a longer bridge which is wider and won't touch the river
- T&ES is doing pavement condition index survey
 - Will see teams on trails in the next few weeks
- Have \$150,000 annually for reconstruction, maintenance and add funding for projects each year from FY23-FY31
 - That funding will also be used to do design and pavement condition index
- **Questions**
 - Elizabeth Wright mentioned that the Beatley Bridge still had water pooling. Jack replied he would check it out.
 - Elizabeth Wright asked about using lighter weight vehicles on trails. Jack has advocated for lighter trucks and years ago, a crew came in with steel tracked ma-

chines did a lot of damage but Parks Department now requires rubber tracked construction vehicles.

- Nicole mentioned the Sanger Ave detour and asked for a protected bike lane. Jack rode that street with Councilmember Bagley and T&ES is looking at it. Have been working with Hillary Orr to put sharrows or blinking lights system.
- Bob asked about North Van Dorn walking path from Fort Ward when it will be opened?
 - That should be done before the end of the year.
 - There is a crossing lined up with the mid block crosswalk
 - They had to redesign and do some additional historical discovery
 - Is that trail will be walking or bike able? it is not very wide but some cyclists will cut through.
 - Parks Department only prohibits bicycles on soft surface trails
- In terms whom to suggest new trail to, Parks Department is the organization to ask for off-street trails. T&ES handles any on-street projects.
 - Parks Department also reviews their park plan for new trail opportunities
- Roughly how many people are working on trails now? Just park crews 80 full-time staff but has about 1-2 dedicated trail staff. The Parks Department planning group which plans trails (along with everything else in parks) has about eight staff.
- Are you planning to ask for more staff to work on trails in the upcoming?
 - Most of the work is done by contractors, Holmes Run Trail, much of the work does not cost the Parks Department a lot in terms of staff, (\$12-15k), Beatley was (\$80k).
- Rides 20-30 miles every weekend on his bike

Project/Event updates

- Holiday lights ride and walk are on December 16 and 17, ride at 6 pm and walk at 6:30 pm both Friday and Saturday
- May do a small business Saturday to small-black-owned businesses over the winter
- No bike rodeos planned
- BITS is continuing despite the cold and welcomes volunteers, ACPS is trying to fill a half-time Safe Routes to Schools position (\$19k, 30% below last's salary and thus have no applicants)
- Holiday party updates
 - 5:30 pm - 8 pm and get 10 parking spaces in visitors lot
 - bike parking across the street

- DASH and Metro are very frequent
- Elizabeth asked if we are buzzed in or do we need an access code, have a concierge to let people in at the front desk.
- Secretary's report and minutes – Zack DesJardins
 - Minutes approved
- Virtual meeting in January 9th

Subcommittee Reports

Infrastructure for trails

Meeting with Councilmember Kirk McPike on Saturday

BPAC Business topics

Public Comment