



Consent Calendar Item 1.A)

DRAFT

SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2009

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on March 19, 2009 with Commission Chair Kevin Jackson presiding. The meeting was held in the West Conference Room, City Hall, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale.

ROLL CALL/CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCES

Members Present: Kevin Jackson
Ralph Durham
Andrea Stawitcke
Richard Warner
Patrick Walz

Members Absent: James Manidakos

Staff Present: Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner

Visitors: Arthur Schwartz, Sunnyvale resident

There was no objection to the absence of Commissioner Manidakos, and his absence was excused.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the February 19, 2009 BPAC Meeting
- 1.B) Approval of the March 19, 2009 Meeting Agenda
- 1.C) Approval of the 2009 BPAC Calendar Update

Commissioner Andrea Stawitcke moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Ralph Durham to approve Consent Calendar items 1.A), 1.B) and 1.C). Motion was passed 5-0.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None. No public comments were raised during the BPAC meeting held on February 19, 2009, and comments later raised through the City's web site were addressed prior to the March 19th BPAC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arthur Schwartz – Noted that he attended the Walking Awareness workshop which took place at the Community Center a week earlier. Indicated that some of the workshop participants requested from BPAC members not to focus their contributions toward cycling only, and to try to balance their efforts between cycling and walking related issues. Also noted that future bike maps should show locations of seating benches and other street furniture that could serve cyclists, especially older age cyclists, along the bike routes.

Chair Jackson – Encouraged the public to bring their walking related concerns to the attention of BPAC. In addition, noted that referencing locations of benches on the bicycle map is a good idea, which could also illustrate deficiencies such as long stretches of roads that lack street furniture.

Commissioner Stawitcke – Encouraged pedestrian activists to voice their opinions, and to apply for the current vacancy on BPAC.

Arthur Schwartz – Requested to select a BPAC member to make a presentation at the Senior Center and to take notes of their pedestrian related concerns. Also requested posting at the Center information regarding the vacancy on BPAC.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2. ACTION: Review of Ordinance 2871-08 of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code Amending Section 10.16.030 of Chapter 16 (Parking Regulations) of Title 10 (Vehicles and Traffic)

Commissioner Walz – Indicated that there should be bicycle parking provided during special events. Also noted that the environmental assessment conducted in Town Center required removal of the bicycle parking near Murphy Avenue. However, a number of months passed and the bicycle parking has not yet been reinstated.

Commissioner Durham – Also noted the need for bicycle parking during special events. In addition, noted the need for developing a traffic control plan associated with the individual events, which could adjust the vehicular traffic directions in the event's area rather than eliminating parking. Such traffic control plans should also provide for better pedestrian and bicycle movement and access, which could be separated/barricaded from the vehicular traffic. Indicated that vendors typically arrive early and in some cases utilize the parking spaces. Commissioner Durham is concerned about vehicles circulating through the event's area looking for parking, and suggested investigating the possibility of having volunteers or personnel paid by the event applicant to provide a valet parking service. Noted that changes to the traffic flow, provision of valet parking, or any other change should be properly advertised prior to the events. In addition, noted the importance of enforcing parking violations that could cause safety hazards, such as vehicular parking in the bike lanes. Also suggested posting signs designating accessible parking spaces near event locations, and used Frances Street as an example for some of the events that take place in Downtown Sunnyvale.

Chair Jackson – Requested revising Section 10.16.030 of Ordinance No. 2871-08, which was approved on May 6, 2008 to read “..... The traffic engineer shall also have power and authority to suspend or modify existing parking to limited durations to promote parking turn-over limitations, consistent with applicable traffic safety considerations,””. Chair Jackson clarified that parking duration could either express length of time during which vehicles could remain parked, or time of day when parking is permitted (the latter for example could be by applying a parking prohibition during the peak hours when traffic volumes are heaviest and safety concerns are raised). The recommended revision of limited duration is intended to express a limited/short time period of permitted parking in order to encourage high turn-over of vehicular parking. Vehicles parked beyond the allowed duration could be cited.

In addition, Chair Jackson noted that the provision of vehicular parking in close proximity to event locations may not only encourage attendance, but will also encourage driving. Believes that parking spaces located close to events would be better utilized as accessible parking. Also, indicated that dispersing vehicular parking could be a safer parking management approach, especially if event patrons arrive and/or leave at the same time. Believes that the RTC overemphasizes residents' concerns about parking in neighborhoods. Indicated that the increase in parking demand caused by special events is typically for only a few days a year, and that there should be more tolerance for using City owned parking within neighborhoods including curb-side parking on the public streets. Added that the City should assert ownership of the public parking within neighborhoods which is paid for by all Sunnyvale residents. Indicated that preventing event related parking from taking place in neighborhoods, increases the overall need for street space dedicated for parking. Requested that parking enforcement be focused on safety related violations such as parking in front of fire hydrants and on sidewalks.

Arthur Schwartz – Emphasized the need for designating areas for accessible parking during special events. Also indicated that it is important to differentiate between the time of parking restriction versus timed parking.

Commissioner Walz - Moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Durham to accept changes to Ordinance No. 2871-08 and to forward BPAC comments to the City Council. Motion was passed 5-0.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

- BPAC ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Warner – Shared some photos showing the accessible ramps on Weddell Drive leading to the Borregas bridge overcrossing US 101. The photos show curb edge raised from the pavement surface level, which could cause a tripping hazard for cyclists and pedestrians.

Staff liaison took note of this concern, which will be addressed as part of the future road improvements including street resurfacing.

Arthur Schwartz – Requested that the City’s design standards be revised to eliminate the curb lip that causes a safety hazard particularly for cyclists and physically challenged pedestrians.

Chair Jackson – Noted that such change to the design standards can be considered for a study issue.

- STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

Staff liaison, Heba El-Guendy, noted the following:

1. Noted that the Bike to Work Day shirts are now available for a cost of \$10 each in addition to the sales tax, as well as the shipping and handling cost. Added that it will not be possible for the City to purchase this year’s shirts for the BPAC members or City staff.
2. Briefly discussed the upcoming Health and Safety Fair and Earth Day events.
3. Noted that applications for the vacancy on BPAC will continue to be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2009.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

4. High Speed Rail Project – Council Study Session on March 24, 2009

Staff liaison, Heba El-Guendy, presented the staff report which was also provided as part of the agenda packet.

Commissioner Durham – Requested that the staff’s review covers impacts of all at, and grade-separated railway crossings on the movements of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic. Added that review of the project should also cover the construction

related impacts. Expressed his support to the Bernardo crossing and requested its consideration and review.

Chair Jackson – Noted that the Bicycle Expenditure Plan (BEP) would secure 80% of the cost of the Bernardo crossing, and that it would be less expensive if the crossing's planning, design and implementation are carried out as part of the overall high speed rail project.

5. Annual Volunteer Recognition and Boards and Commissions Reception

As indicated in the agenda packet, this event is scheduled from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28. Event invitations will be mailed to all BPAC members by early April.

6. City Staff Training on Environmental Sustainability – Commute Solutions Workshop

Staff liaison briefed the BPAC members on the ongoing staff training on means of environmental sustainability including information on the Commute Solutions workshop planned for Tuesday, March 31.

Chair Jackson – Noted his support of the ongoing educational efforts.

7. BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters

No E-mail messages were received since the BPAC meeting held on February 19, 2009. A letter that was mailed to the attention of BPAC was included as part of the Agenda packet.

8. Active Items List

The updated Active Items List was provided as part of the Agenda Packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heba El-Guendy
Senior Transportation Planner
Division of Transportation and Traffic