

FINAL

SUNNYVALE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2009

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on June 18, 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
Patrick Walz
James Manidakos
Ralph Durham

Members Absent: Andrea Stawitcke
Richard Warner

Staff Present: Gary Luebbers, City Manager
Kelly Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief, Public Safety Department
Jack Witthaus, Transportation and Traffic Division Manager, Public Works Department
Heba El-Guendy, Senior Transportation Planner, PW Department

Visitors: Marianne Cali, President, Stevens Creek Neighbors Neighborhood Association
Camie Hackson, Vice President, Stevens Creek Neighbors Neighborhood Association

Commissioner Stawitcke was absent due to her injury while cycling resulting from a bicycle/car collision. Commissioner Warner was also ill with the flu. Both absences were reported to the staff liaison in advance of the meeting. There was no objection by the Commission members to the absence of Commissioners Stawitcke and Warner, and their absence was excused.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Garry Luebbers – The City Manager presented himself and expressed his desire to work with BPAC. Mr. Luebbers indicated that he is impressed with the bicycle and pedestrian facilities within Sunnyvale, and that he cycled in Sunnyvale in the past three months more than he cycled in the eight years that he lived in Utah which is known for its great outdoors. Also indicated that he is becoming familiar with the bicycle and pedestrian related issues such as the crossing of El Camino Real and the Stevens Creek

Trail extension.

Kevin Jackson – Chair Jackson indicated that he considers BPAC as an added value to the City with ambitious objectives presented in the Bicycle Plan, Pedestrian Opportunities Study and other policies and studies. Briefly noted the environmental, economic, and energy related issues that we are facing nowadays. Added that BPAC tries to focus on getting people to start walking and cycling, and once they have a good experience they would likely continue to cycle and walk even if some of the economic and environmental issues are resolved. In addition, Chair Jackson indicated that street design and space allocation need to accommodate all modes of transportation. For example, eliminating curb-side parking may be controversial, but could benefit a considerable number of cyclists. Added that motorists need to be provided with choices besides driving. Also that there is a continued need for BPAC inspection and oversight until there is awareness on all levels of the pedestrians and cyclists needs.

Marianne Cali – Suggested to physically separate bicycle traffic from motorized vehicles such as practiced in the Cities of New York and Copenhagen.

Kevin Jackson – Noted that there is an essential need for accommodating bicyclists on roads to allow for efficient access to all destinations rather than the recreational cycling on trails shared with pedestrians, baby strollers, etc.

Ralph Durham – Noted that unfortunately cyclists could be more impacted by some road conditions relative to motorists. For example, Central Expressway can accommodate higher speeds cycling along designated bike lanes. However, Central Expressway changes in the City of Palo Alto to become Alma Street with less travel way width and no bike lanes which affect the movements of cyclists.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Jackson – Indicated that he and Cathy Switzer attended the Health and Safety Fair which took place in Columbia Middle School on May 30, 2009.

It should be noted that 135 public members under the age of 18 received Bike Safety Classes, 135 of the 175 parents present received the Bike Safety Class with their children, and 121 helmets were distributed.

Chair Jackson – Also noted that Council approved the Ordinance that amends sections of Chapter 10.56 of the Municipal Code pertaining to bicycles which was reviewed by BPAC in the April and May meetings. In addition, indicated that Cathy Switzer was selected by Council to join BPAC as of July 1, 2009.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1.A) Approval of Draft [Minutes of the May 21, 2009 Meeting](#)
- 1.B) Approval of [Agenda of the June 18, 2009 Meeting](#)
- 1.C) Approval of the 2009 BPAC Calendar Update

Commissioner Walz moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Durham to approve Consent Calendar items 1.B) and 1.C). Motion was passed 4-0.

- 1.A) Approval of Draft Minutes of the May 21, 2009 Meeting

Chair Jackson – Noted that other matters were discussed during the meeting and need to be referenced in the minutes then listed the following:

- The Mayor's Sub-Committee to recommend a policy with regard to the Stevens Creek Trail

- extension in replacement of the Policy 2.2.C.5 that was eliminated by Council;
- The Community's desire for a Stevens Creek Trail extension that includes Sunnyvale;
 - Whether or not the four-city meetings on the Stevens Creek Trail alignment would continue to be open to the public along with the pros and cons with such an arrangement; and,
 - The need for a robust public consultation process in planning the future Trail alignment.

Commissioner Durham moved a motion seconded by Commissioner Walz to approve Consent Calendar item 1.A) as amended. Motion was passed 4-0.

STAFF RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

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

Jack Witthaus – Provided background information on this discussion item which originated from a Study Issue. Noted that when this item was previously discussed during the March BPAC meeting, it was not possible for staff of the Public Safety Department to attend. Thus, the matter is being brought back to BPAC to provide the Commission members with the opportunity to have a dialogue with the City Traffic Engineer, Jack Witthaus, and Deputy Chief, Kelly Fitzgerald. Mr. Witthaus clarified that parking does not neatly fall under the BPAC scope. Realizing that the Hindu Festival in the north end of town, for example, raised questions with regard to illegal and unsafe parking in the bike lanes. However, BPAC needs to be assured that the City Traffic Engineer and the Public Safety officers will not allow such unsafe parking practices.

Kelly Fitzgerald – Noted that it is the responsibility of Public Safety Department to enhance safety conditions and it is unlikely that unsafe parking practices would be allowed. Deputy Chief Fitzgerald clarified that the staff's amendment to the ordinance and City Council mainly focused on large events that take place in downtown Sunnyvale such as the Art and Wine Festival. Staff needed more flexibility to better address such situations without having the intention to change parking regulations for all events that take place throughout the City.

Kevin Jackson – Chair Jackson noted that the ordinance will be the controlling document rather than staff. So, it must be stated in the ordinance language since the staff report will probably be forgotten along with associated clarifications. Added that downtown events although mentioned in the RTC, they are not mentioned in the actual ordinance amendment. Chair Jackson noted his concern that the amended ordinance may be misinterpreted and misused, and that duration of special events is the wrong time to relax parking restrictions that could have adverse safety impacts. Reiterated his requests for ordinance amendments and associated clarifications noted in the minutes of the March and April BPAC meetings.

James Manidakos – Noted that current and future staff members that will implement the amended ordinance are not necessarily experienced cyclists and that perceptions varies. Suggested attaching the list of streets where the ordinance would be applicable.

Kelly Fitzgerald – Explained that the list of streets provided as part of the RTC is not currently

exhaustive, and that undertaking such an action would require future updates to the street list.

Jack Witthaus – Indicated that the BPAC members have valid concerns that he will share with the City Attorney and return to BPAC with some feedback. Added that changes to the wording of the ordinance would likely require Council approval.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

· BPAC ORAL COMMENTS

Commissioner Durham – Indicated that a member of the League of American Bicyclists has been visiting him, and that a tour of bicycle facilities in the Bay Area is planned for Sunday, June 21, 2009. Added that he will provide some feedback on the event in the July BPAC meeting.

· STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

Staff liaison, Heba El-Guendy, provided feedback on some of the received e-mail messages as follows:

- A work order has been issued with regard to the overgrown trees on the east side of Java Drive past Geneva Drive.
- Reported bike detection issues have been addressed on the northbound and southbound left-turn lanes on Mathilda Avenue at Ross Drive, on the eastbound and westbound approaches on Ticonderoga Drive at Mary Avenue, on the southbound left-turn lane on Fair Oaks Avenue at Ahwanee Terrace, and on the eastbound and westbound approaches on The Dalles Avenue at Mary Avenue.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

3. BPAC E-mail Messages and/or Letters as provided in the Agenda packet.
4. Active Items List as provided in the Agenda packet.

Accepted as submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by:

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