



Durham Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Durham Transportation Department · 101 City Hall Plaza · Durham, NC 27701

February 16, 2020
7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

AGENDA

Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions, Excused Absences 7:02

- Meeting called to order by Susanne Schmal
- Update on new members and openings: Mike Shepherd is a new member; there are still two vacancies in the process of being advertised so they can be filled
- Present: Aidil Ortiz, Susanne Schmal, Emily Egge, Michael Moorman, Dan Clever, Ed Rizzuto, Amanda De Hoedt, David Fellerath, Tony Patterson, Mike Shepherd, Heidi Carter, Javiera Caballero
- Absent: George Tait, Jazmyn Joyner, Shyla Napier
- Staff/Presenters: Dale McKeel, Wade Walcutt, Ellen Beckmann
- Public: Jen McDuffie

II. Adjustments to the Agenda 7:09

- Dan wants us to move up County sidewalks after the Parks and Recreation presentation. Motion approved.

III. Approval of Minutes from January Meeting 7:11

- Motion to approve minutes by Ed. Second by Emily. Motion approved.

IV. Public Comments 7:13

- Jen says Susanne is doing great for her first meeting as chair.

V. Presentations - Meet and Greet with Durham Parks and Recreation Director Wade Walcutt

- Priority #1 is for COVID to go away so that normal operations to get started.
- Always been involved in municipal government and parks and recreation for his entire career
- Wants to build a servant leadership culture at the organization and prioritize relationships
- There needs to be a balance between a smart business plan, equity and fun are possible.
- Learned from past jobs the importance of having teams that are genuinely passionate about the work.
- This time period is showing us how essential parks and recreation to maintaining a vibrant community.
- How can parks and rec partner with DOT for equitable access to parks and trails? He'd like to explore more on this and doesn't know what the relationship is right now. Wants to make sure that we think of universal access (for people of different abilities) as part of our equity framework.

- Believes in building programs and facilities that are for 8-80 years old.
- Initial comments about soccer park near Merrick Moore. Ground breaking for soccer park was in the same month that he arrived in his position. When he arrived they told him it was 4 fields and that there were neighbors nearby who didn't know it was happening. Has reached out to the neighborhood association to help fill in how the plan was developed. Neighbors were feeling like they could be potentially squeezed out of the community because of a combination of development projects happening.
- How will equitable engagement be ingrained in master plan process? Has reached out to NIS and their department along with the city's equity manager.
- Now more than ever, trails and parks are essential to our health and wellness. We need more investment in them as a fundamental and not as a "nice-to-have". They're paying attention to the shape and quality of these offerings and staff agrees that improvements need to happen.
- Wants to see how parks and recreation can help with health partners to be seen as part of the prevention efforts around resilient and healthy communities. Has started having those convos with Duke Health.
- Realized through budget exercises to look at what to do with reductions. Need to really think about what hasn't been working. Not done with this analysis. Will be focused on outdoor spaces more than indoor recreation.
- Would love to see RAC and BPAC advocate to avoid the reduction of funding. We need the narratives on how the work of DPR provides improved quality of life through connection and economic development. Also would love to codify development opportunities so that when a developer comes in that a percentage of their funding supports connection to trails or neighborhoods.
- DPRINFO@durham.gov is best way to report maintenance
- Aidil suggests that there needs to be some trail etiquette administered to keep everyone safe
- Ed feels that transportation to and from DPR amenities because paratransit doesn't reach all of them and that locks out people with disabilities

VI. New Business

▪ Follow-up – sidewalks in Durham County outside the city boundary

- some sidewalks in the county were built by NC DOT but the city is liable to maintain them. It likely did so with the anticipation that those parts of the county would be annexed.
- The city is not assessing sidewalks outside of the city but there is no database to track who is responsible for sidewalks in county.
- NCDOT did approve a new complete streets policy. It says that if they build a new street and a sidewalk is part of the plan, then the NC DOT will build and maintain them in the county.
- In 2015, County did pass a policy of maintenance of sidewalks limited to those near schools.
- Heidi welcomed pressure from residents on the county to fund more sidewalks in the county.
- The sidewalk network in some communities is tough when portions fall into the city and others to the county. This challenges the ability to build complete networks.
- Ellen wants to focus on needs to connect to transit. Doesn't make sense for county to do their own sidewalk assessment but could partner with city to work together on that.
- At our next meeting we can have Dale to share the history of sidewalks in Durham.

VII. Committee Reports 8:32

▪ Education, Encouragement and Engagement Committee Report (Susanne Schmal)

- focused on identifying priorities for the year to share at the retreat on Saturday

- spent time coming up with questions for Wade
- thought of ideas for Bike Month in May

▪ **Development Review Committee Report (Dan Clever)**

- EAB is interested in the overall process of reviewing plans with Dev. Rev. Sharing checklist and will help them develop one of their own.
- For the development plan related to the redevelopment of the Southpoint Mall site, we will be following up on 1. additional connection to the ATT 2. better and more connections to side trail along Renaissance, 3. better pedestrian infrastructure on the east side

▪ **Bike & Pedestrian Plan Implementation / Evaluation Committee Report (Michael Moorman)**

- Working with Bragtown Community Association regarding their roads and sidewalks. Put together a list of most important issues to them. Some improvements are coming but lots of things are very deteriorated. Want some sidewalks placed on the right side of the street.

▪ **Updates from Liaisons**

- **Duke University (George Tait) - no updates**
- **Durham Open Space and Trails (TBD) - no updates**
- **NC Central University (Tony Patterson) - no updates**
- **Planning Commission (TBD) - no updates**
- **Recreation Advisory Commission (David Fellerath) -** Talked about moving meeting time to a time of day that was easier on people. A few people are interested in attending BPAC retreat.
- **Comprehensive Plan (Aidil Ortiz & Ed Rizzuto) -** Comp Plan feedback for this round of engagement ends on Feb 19th and Dale sent an email with details.
- **Other Community Updates (All) - no updates**

VIII. Old Business 8:53

- **BPAC 2021 Retreat - EAB, DOST, and RAC will be in the house for the 2nd part of the retreat. Look out for our goodies delivery and make sure your address is right.**

- Moved to extend the meeting 10 minutes. Motion approved.

- **BPAC 2020 Annual Report (Dale McKeel) -** not finished but it should be sent out soon

IX. Announcements and Updates 9:05

X. Communication Priorities from Meeting and Committees 9:06

XI. Adjourn 9:07