

Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Meeting of May 16, 2018

Attendees:

Eileen Kadesh
Matt Paskus
Sunny Beaver
Gary Malick
Daniel Tepper
Alan McConchie
Rodney Vandersypen

Not present:

Sue Towner
Annie Honrath
Christ Thomsen
Chris Elder

1. Daniel Tepper moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2018 meeting of the Committee. Sunny Beaver seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Details of the Bike-to-Work Day stations were discussed in preparation for the May 18th event. Gary offered to make a banner at work for Matt to use at the Marine Drive station. Sunny offered to finalize the wording of a flyer that night and print it the next day. Eileen reviewed the schedule for staffing.
3. There was some discussion about next steps needed to support the Airport Trail. Matt indicated that Sunil, Director of the Bellingham Airport, said the Port could open the west side trail on September 8th during the Airfest. The west side trail is on Port property. The trail is 1.75 – 2 miles in length. Mountain bikers use this route in the Sea to Ski race.

Matt shared a draft of a letter he put together for the BPAC to send to support the trail. Committee members had some comments. Eileen said she would check on use of the Committee's letterhead to send the letter. Daniel thought the letter should be directed to Jack Louws and cc'ed to the Port. It was also suggested that we add a paragraph indicating how the airport trail connects to the County's trail system. Daniel and Matt will work together on wording for this paragraph.

Gary asked whether Public Works staff know about the trail. Daniel said he organized a meeting with Joe Rutan and Port managers last fall to discuss the airport trail. The trail is

actually an access road and is good for commuting, as well as recreation. The biggest advocate for the trail was Sylvia, who retired from working at the Port in April.

4. Sunny provided a report from the Outreach Subcommittee. She suggested going to the County Council soon to introduce our Committee and its goals. Rodney thought the Public Works Committee of the Council would be the appropriate forum for this. Sunny will check on dates for getting on the agenda.

Sunny also suggested again having BPAC meetings in other parts of the County, although we should know how we would handle requests for bicycle and pedestrian improvements. It was also suggested that we find out about neighborhood associations in areas other than the City of Bellingham.

Coordination with WTA is another strategy to be explored. We want to get WTA as allies. Their strategic plan is available online. Eileen said she could contact Rick Nicholson about setting up a meeting.

5. The next agenda item of discussion was a list from Chris Elder, as part of the Priority Projects Subcommittee, for ranking priority projects. Daniel indicated that this list needs more work, and he offered to contact Chris to discuss this. It was agreed that the Priority Projects Subcommittee would provide a fuller report at the next meeting for additional discussion.
6. Alan said he has been researching mapping and GIS as part of the Mapping Subcommittee. Daniel said there is actually a Washington State GIS Trail Director and that he has tried to tap into STRAVA data.
7. The Kendall bike trail was discussed next. Daniel indicated that the Parks and Recreation Foundation owns some property in Kendall. PSE is going to relocate its utility poles. Eileen would like to have the consultant for this project come to our Committee meeting in July to provide an update.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.