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Multnomah County Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Board Room, Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Dehner
Joel Huffman
Greg Olson
Matthew Barney
Martha Berndt
Jeff Grover
Andrew Holtz
Gary Purvine
Michael Rubenstein

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ryan Farncomb
Art Graves
Talia Jacobson
Rory Renfro
Carolyn Briggs
Jim Couch
Susan Watt

STAFF: Kate McQuillan (Transportation Planner), Allison Boyd (Program Manager)

Guest: Rithy Khut (Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. There was a quorum of members present.

2. Approve January 2017 Meeting Minutes

There is one typo correction on page 3 of draft meeting minutes.

MOTION: Joel Huffman moved to approve the January 2017 meeting minutes. Michael Dehner seconded the motion.

APPROVAL: January 2017 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Public Comment

Greg Olson shared with the Committee some updates on the Troutdale 40-Mile Loop Trail Master Plan (formerly known as the Troutdale to Gresham Trail, or the Sandy to Springwater Trail). The City of Gresham has pulled out of the design planning process due to political and community concerns about illegal camping on public trails that has been in the media over the last year. Greg expressed his concern about Gresham pulling out of the project, particularly since construction is 10-20 years in the future. Greg plans to speak during the public comment period at next week's East Multnomah County Transportation Committee (EMCTC) meeting on Monday, February 13th.

4. Staff Report

Kate asked for the Committee's feedback on Greg representing the BPCAC on the Troutdale 40-Mile Loop Trail Master Plan committee. Previously Greg represented the City of Gresham's citizen committee. However with Gresham no longer participating in the planning effort, staff at the County and Metro still see Greg's input as invaluable and propose changing his affiliation to representing the BPCAC. Committee members were very supportive of this idea.

Kate directed Committee members to the County's website and social media pages for the most up to date road closure information. The extreme winter weather this year means the County has had to close several roads. Andrew suggested that the closure information on both physical signs on the road and on the website be more explicit about whether or not the road closure impacts bicyclists or pedestrians. Kate will pass along this feedback to Mike Pullen.

Lastly, Kate shared that the Oregon Active Transportation Summit is coming up on Monday, March 20th. In the past, the County has paid for the registration fees of a couple BPCAC members to attend this full day conference. Kate asks that any member interested in attending get in touch. Priority will be given to BPCAC members who have not attended a conference on behalf of the BPCAC before and to members who's employers are unlikely to pay registration fees.

Staff Follow-up: Kate will forward the open house invitation for the Troutdale 40-Mile Loop open house on February 22nd, as well as the Oregon Active Transportation Summit's website. Also, Kate will forward the Committee's feedback about road closure language.

5. Chair Report

Greg Olson filled in as temporary Chair to facilitate tonight's meeting.

6. Nominations and Elections for Chair

Greg opened up the discussion for BPCAC members to volunteer themselves or nominate another member to serve as the Chair. Kate shared that Rory Renfro (who could not attend this evening's meeting due to a travel conflict) volunteered to serve as Chair if there were no other nominations. Seeing as there were no other nominations, Rory was nominated as the new Chair of the BPCAC.

MOTION: Joel Huffman moved to nominate Rory Renfro as Chair of the Multnomah County Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee. Andrew Holtz seconded the motion.

APPROVAL: The Committee unanimously approved Rory as the new Chair.

7. Levee Ready Columbia

Allison Boyd, the Levee Project Manager at Multnomah County, provided an overview presentation about the Levee Ready Columbia project. This regional project is a coordinated effort amongst government agencies and the local drainage districts to recertify levees around Sauvie Island, the Multnomah Channel, North Portland (including the Columbia Slough), and the east County cities. One of the primary reasons for this effort is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will not recognize levee's that are not certified (or have expired certifications), creating serious implications for property owners and development behind the levees.

Allison also mentioned that as part of the recertification process, the project is beginning survey work that will include boring into the levees. The surveying may temporarily close segments of the 40-Mile Loop Trail and Marine Drive. Allison encourages BPCAC members to provide feedback on the closures, whether for signage or general outreach.

Questions and comments from the BPCAC include:

- How is this initiative being funded given that property owners already pay taxes and fees to local drainage districts? The drainage districts are using some of their revenues to help with this effort. Local government agencies like the County and the Port of Portland are also contributing funds. The state of Oregon is helping to facilitate the coordinated effort.
- After the recertification process is complete, will bicycle and pedestrian facilities be included as part of a levee remediation project on Sauvie Island? Not likely, this project does not anticipate any major construction on the levee based on the evaluation completed this far.
- How will this initiative analyze potential impacts from climate change? This project is currently researching how to incorporate climate change impacts with the intent to be proactive with possible improvement needs. FEMA flood insurance maps (and thus minimum recertification requirements) are based on historical data and are not necessarily forward-projecting. Incorporating potential impacts from climate change now may help in the future when new regulations may be imposed based on this information.
- Is the seasonal flooding of the Columbia River caused by snow melt or rain? Allison responded that the Columbia River water level is more greatly impacted by snow melt, whereas the Willamette River is more impacted by rain.
- Who owns the levees? The majority of the levees are private property. The most common scenario is that the local drainage districts have easements on private property so that they can maintain the levees.

- What is the history of Marine Drive, and how were they able to construct a road of levees? Allison is not sure. Kate offered to help track down some history on Marine Drive.

Staff Follow-up: Kate will look into some history on Marine Drive and forward to Michael Rubenstein. Kate will also send the link to the project's drilling updates with information related to road and trail closures.

8. Multnomah County Transportation 101

Kate provided an updated "Multnomah County Transportation 101" presentation for the first time since 2015 as there have been many changes to County elected officials and division leadership. Kate also passed out packets to members covering similar information about the County and relevant transportation planning processes, including several road maps to help explain the County's unique road jurisdiction. The intent of both the presentation and the packet is to provide all BPCAC members with a common framework about how the County as a whole, and the Transportation Division, function.

Kate solicited feedback on future topics the Committee would find useful to learn. The Committee would like to see:

- Development Review 101 for Advocates
- History and overview of the Willamette River Bridges
- Road maintenance and safety requests to various road authorities
- Stormwater infrastructure and how it impacts roadway design

For the March 2017 BPCAC meeting, Kate has invited the County's Attorneys Office to provide training on Oregon public meeting laws and ethics laws.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Meeting minutes written and submitted by:

Kate McQuillan

The next BPCAC meeting is scheduled for: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 from 6:30-8:30pm, at the Multnomah Building.