

Whatcom County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee

February 20, 2019

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm

Members present: Eileen Kadesh (chair), Alan McConchie, Sue Towner, Jason Ardt (Public Works), Gary Malick, Sunny Beaver, Tara Satushek, Chris Elder (Whatcom County Planning)

Guests present: Aaron Dutton, Jon Hutchings (Whatcom County Public Works Director), Harrison Winkler, Daniel Tepper

Approval of minutes from January meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.

There were three printed handouts passed out: Draft 2019 BPAC Work Plan, 2019 Work Tasks list for BPAC members, and a Priority Project Ranking list

Daniel Tepper talked about the upcoming Trail Summit to be held in Ferndale; he encouraged folks to carpool and to sign up ahead of time so that they could have an accurate headcount since food will be provided.

Jason Ardt briefed the committee on the upcoming ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) study and review of county projects that could fall under this act. Jason encouraged the committee to comment on this plan.

Jon Hutchings mentioned looking to see where the county is behind in this area (ADA compliance). Federal money may be at stake if we are out of compliance. This is a high priority. Jon noted that Mike Donahue is the county ADA point person.

Jason mentioned he will be giving a tour of the priority projects for those interested.

Jon mentioned- To date: the County Council has not made business of providing off-right-of-way trails as a service to the public.

Eileen continued the conversation regarding the BPAC work plan

Jon complimented the group on the priority ranking process.

Daniel and Jon discussed the 6 Year TIP and how it does or does not integrate with the BPAC plan.

Jon discussed the need to keep committed to the projects that have been on the list for a number of years.

Tara asked for some clarification on how things get on the TIP.

Jon discussed how projects are financed.

Daniel recommends that the public be informed about the existing trail tax.

The County Bike/ Ped master plan should reflect the changes we are seeing in the priority rankings

Eileen mentioned plans to brief the County Executive in a few months, as well as the idea of having a small project competition for citizens. Jon recommended exercising caution in this area, especially what we tell the public and not overpromising.

It was mentioned that we want to sponsor another Bike-to-Work and School Day celebration station.

Eileen concluded the BPAC work plan discussion with the idea of briefing the County Council again.

Discussion of the Work Task list for BPAC members:

Work tasks:

1. Oversee the update of the Bike/Ped Plan (compile/write/edit)

Tara, Sunny, (+ Alan graphic design support)

2. Conduct research for update of Plan

Stephen

* Recreation Northwest study: <https://www.recreationnorthwest.org/recreation-economy/>

* Healthy Planning resolution:

<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/12989/Board-of-Health-packet-October-6-2015?bidId=>

* Climate Protection plan:

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/36617/Whatcom-County-2007-Climate-Protection-and-Energy-Plan>

3. Put together information packet for priority projects, maps, PDFs, etc

Harrison, Alan

4. Research obstacles to implementation of top priority projects/connect with Parks & Rec. -

Harrison

5. Prepare/conduct outreach to County Executive/County Council

Eileen

6. Plan a walk or van trip of two priority project sections w/ council, staff, planning - Mark
7. Build case for special pot of money for small projects that community groups can compete for. – Eileen & Sue

Maybe get some other group to contribute a pot of money first? Sustainable Whatcom fund in Whatcom Community Foundation.

8. Research how other rural counties treat trails and propose solutions

Stephen

9. Research funding sources for priority projects.

Gary

10. Meet with cities in Whatcom County to discuss their interest in our priority projects.

WCOG?

Aaron

Approval of Project Priority ranking list- approved

Stephen Zylstra introduced himself, has worked many years with Dept of Fish and Wildlife, many years of experience with various organizations

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:48pm