



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

Ken Carlson, Chair*
Tegin Bennett, Vice Chair*
Charlie Denison, Secretary*
Alex Anderson
Alex Epstein*
Ariel Horowitz*
Enid Kumin*
Tom Lamar*
Alan Moore
Brian Postlewaite
Tim Talun
Ian Woloschin*

Ex-Officio:

Daniel Hadley, Office of the Mayor
*Mark Niedergang, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
*Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino, Police Department
Jennifer Molina, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.

Day/Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall Basement Lounge

Procedural Business Part I

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
 - a. Ryan Christman
 - b. Brandon Stafford
 - c. Tom Bertulis
 - d. Daniela Cardenas
 - e. Tyler Campbell
 - f. Officer Wolf Berrouet
 - g. Elizabeth Weinbloom
 - h. Lauren Clayton
 - i. Andreas Wolfe
2. Acting Secretary: Ariel Horowitz
3. **VOTE: Approve July Minutes**
 - a. **Minutes were approved**
4. Update on meeting with Daniel Hadley and upcoming meeting with Mayor- Tegin and Ken
 - a. Ken, Tegin, Jennifer, and Brad Rawson met with the Mayor's Chief of Staff Daniel Hadley to update him on the Committee's composition and activity. One change effected by this meeting was Dep. Chief Carrabino being appointed as the ex officio from SPD. The full Committee will have a chance to meet with the mayor later in the month or in early September, venue and date TBD. Committee should come prepared with big, innovative

ideas, especially things that Somerville can be first at.

ACTION ITEM: Ken to schedule pre-meeting meeting to brainstorm ideas to present to the mayor

- b. In the future, minutes and agenda will be sent to all ex officio members. **ACTION ITEM: Charlie to send minutes and agenda to all ex officio members.**

Team Update Part I

- Enforcement and Education
 - Cyclekids
 - Officer Manfra seeks SBC volunteers to help teach students bike safety in the Cyclekids program. Program is 8 weeks long but time commitment is flexible (~1 hour during business hours).
 - Interested parties should contact Ian for more details.
 - Harassment of cyclists and Zero tolerance concept:
 - A citizen (Robin) contacted the city with a complaint about harassment from a motorist. SPD followed up by contacting citizen, identifying driver, and contacting him. Driver apologized and said he'd write a letter of apology.
 - Dep. Chief Carrabino offers that the SBC can give his contact info to cyclists who are harassed, hit, etc. and says that if there is footage that can be helpful and allow him to file a complaint against the driver.
 - Bike theft
 - SPD is aware of bike theft as a problem. Thieves that are caught are generally not Somerville residents.
 - SPD will be purchasing a bait bike.
 - Most thefts occur on public streets in Assembly, Davis, and Powderhouse.
 - SPD offers bike registration program and will also perform a sting if stolen bikes are (provably) found on craigslist.
 - Dep. Chief Carrabino attempts to give primarily verbal warnings to educate.
 - SPD can cite motorists for bike box violations as a "marked lane" violation (89-4, a \$100 fine and a moving violation).

Vision - 15 min

- ❖ Continuous Flow intersections – Tom B.
 - Invented in Mexico 20 years ago; currently more than 50 exist in Mexico and fewer than 10 in the US.
 - The concept is that shortly before the intersection, drivers turning left cross opposing traffic during the perpendicular traffic phase. They then approach the intersection on the left side of the approaching traffic flow and are free to turn left without crossing opposing traffic.
 - This results in a relatively large cross section and therefore the best way to incorporate cyclist traffic may be two-way cycletracks on either side of the street.
 - However, at high traffic intersections e.g. McGrath at Washington St., this can result in a more narrow (5-lane) cross section as compared to the conventional plan which may be 6 or even 8 lanes wide.
 - Can be safer and faster for cars but has some initial learning curve associated with it.

Procedural Business Part II

5. Meeting rooms- progress and policy

- a. Teams should continue to e-mail Jennifer for access to the annex or other space.
6. Update on use of Box and Trello pilot- Ken and Ariel
 - a. Box is being used for file storage and organization.
 - b. Trello is going to be used for project management and tracking.
ACTION ITEM: Ariel will invite everyone to Trello
7. By-laws finalization and next steps- Tegin
 - a. By-laws will be run by the legal department and the Board of Aldermen
 - b. By-laws were approved by the committee to be passed to Jennifer for next steps.
8. Update on Web site, social media, calendar- Charlie and Ken
 - a. Web site has been updated. Charlie and Ken will continue to post content on the SBC Facebook site and will post content suggested by others
ACTION ITEM: Ariel will sign SBC up for a Twitter and an Instagram account.
9. Follow-up on Previous Action Items
 - a. Alan is going to give Andrew another chance as student rep.
 - b. Ken has started drafting a seasonal calendar **Action Item: Ken to re-circulate calendar and SBC members to comment on content**

Update from City- 30 min

- ❖ Update on Mobility Plan
 - SBC should talk to alderman and public in support of mobility plan.
 - Budget has not yet been set.
 - Time frame is over the next 2-3 weeks.
- ❖ Status of improvement to Community Path terminus at Lowell St
 - Bollards have been put up on Lowell, and a crosswalk was put in at intersection with Princeton St.
 - Ribbon cutting is scheduled for 19 August.
 - Alderman Niedergang requests signage ASAP.
 - City is considering user-actuated flash beacons with both pedestrian and bicycle symbols; Alex E advocates for automatic (non-actuated) beacons.
 - Alderman Niedergang wants there to be more safety considerations and especially something to slow down traffic as it approaches the bridge from Magoun Sq. Officer Berrouet also stated that he is worried about the poor sight lines for cars coming over the Lowell St railroad bridge towards Princeton St.
 - Committee members also voiced their concern with the crosswalk location at Princeton St. and continues to support a location closer to the bridge recommended in its letter to the City regarding the terminus of the Community Path at Lowell St.
ACTION ITEM: All SBC members look at the Lowell St. terminus of the Path and brainstorm ideas to sign or otherwise make it more user-friendly.
- ❖ Status of Bicycle Boxes
 - Some boxes have been installed. Some are shallower than the NACTO design guidelines; this is due to Terry's engineering decision that boxes should be applied even in places where existing thermoplastic restricts the depth.
 - The city is seeking funding to apply signage.
 - Some of the intersections may be switched to no turn on red.
 - Jennifer will send an invite if there is an opportunity to shadow the crew.
- ❖ Beacon St communication plan

- The bid is out and the city is looking for new ways to communicate with the public on Beacon St. plans apart from public meetings.
- ❖ McGrath Interim update
 - There is a big push from petitioners trying to reinstate parking on the stretch.
 - Interim improvements are under construction. Ken expressed his concern with the proposed priority bike lane plan for Medford Street and reiterated his request to meet with Jennifer and Brad to discuss possible options.

ACTION ITEM: Jennifer will update the committee on the status of the resurfacing of Medford St.
- ❖ Summer St.- Cutter to Willow Marking Update
 - Sharrows will be put on this stretch for this season but it can be revisited at a later time. Charlie stated that the Committee had recommended a 5 foot bike lane in this location. Jennifer said that she and Terry were not comfortable with door zone issues with a 5 foot bikelane against parked cars. Committee members recommended meeting with Terry soon to gain a better understanding of his thoughts on bike lane widths.

Team updates 50 min

- ❖ Encouragement/Evaluation and Planning
 - Summer St.
 - Right now Summer St. has a bike lane only on the east bound side. SBC had proposed climbing lanes in both directions but Terry didn't want a 4 ft bike lane next to parked cars and street may be too narrow for a 5 ft bike lane, although the lack of a center line on Summer Street may help in this regard.
 - Tom Bertulis and Mark Chase therefore proposed moving the parking to the south side to allow a climbing lane westbound from Union Square, an idea to which Terry was not opposed.
 - This leaves the committee with several choices: the parking shift and a 4 ft climbing lane against the curb, a 5 ft bike lane against parking in its current location, and a priority lane against parking in its current location.
 - A public meeting is necessary for parking to be moved and there may be a conflict with one existing handicapped spot. A bus stop and possible loss of spaces due to there being more intersecting streets on the south side are issues that would have to be taken into account for a parking shift.
 - Enid argues that it is very important to have community buy-in.
 - The committee's first choice is to move the parking and have a four foot lane against the curb; next preference is five foot lane against parking, then a priority lane against parking. All three options are far preferable to the current state of the street.

ACTION ITEM: Ken will write a letter to Terry stating these three options and reiterating that we want the current situation to change

ACTION ITEM: Jennifer will get feedback from Terry
 - Andreas brought up the idea of having buffered bike lanes on McGrath as an interim measure while improvements occur. **Action Item: Ken to add this to the agenda for the September Monthly Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM