



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

*Ken Carlson, Chairman D
Tegin Bennett, Vice Chairman
Charles Denison, Secretary
*Ariel Horowitz
*Enid Kumin
*Alan Moore
*Brian Postlewaite
Tim Talun
*Alex Epstein
*Ian Woloschin
*Alex Anderson
Tom Lamar
(* Indicates attendance at the meeting)

Ex-Officio:

aniel Hadley, Office of the Mayor
Mark Niedergang, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
Deputy Chief Michael Cabral, Police Department
*Jennifer Molina, Office of Strategic Planning and Community

Guests: Brandon Stafford, Lauren Clayton, Tom Bertulis & Jan Marie Olownia

Day/Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Time: 6:40-8:35 p.m.

Location: City Hall Basement Lounge

Minutes:

Procedural Business 15 min

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet

Jan Marie Olownia: Member of Commonwheels and is establishing a street Side bicycle repair collective on this side of the Charles River , called Shift.. It is mobile and sets up in East Somerville and East Cambridge.

2. Acting Secretary: Brian Postlewaite

3. VOTE: Approve Minutes: June 2015

Alex E moved to approve the minutes; unanimous approval.

4. Progress on identifying a new meeting room

Jennifer requested a meeting room at Somerville Central Library, but that won't be available for a few months. Other options we could consider: VNA, Kennedy School, East Somerville Community School, Somerville Police Department

5. Update on use of Box as storage option

It is working well, being used for agendas, minutes & team documents. Google to still be used for photos.

Action Item: Ken & Charlie to transfer files from Drive to Box.

Action Item: Ken to share Google credentials with new members.

6. Overall tracking of SBC efforts:

Ken: wants to establish a generic calendar for seasonally important work products/tasks, e.g. road/lane requests, events, etc.

Action: Ken and Jennifer to draft Seasonal SBC calendar and share with teams for their input

7. Check-in on Teams:

Jennifer: AG is fine with using discussion group/ teams are acceptable. Best to have less than a quorum.

Updates from City

- Mobility Plan: OSPCD wants us all to talk to our aldermen about developing a mobility plan for the next 5-30 yrs. There is no budget yet. **Action Item: Jennifer to share whatever documents she can to educate the SBC on what the mobility plan is.**
- Annual Report status: Need more quality photos. Otherwise complete. Jennifer will post this month.
- Union Sq. interim improvements: Bids came in high and they will be rebidding, timing was bad for quality contractors. Likely winter or spring construction start.
- McGrath interim improvements: Construction slowdown due to conduits and electrical work. Grass roots effort, primarily by adjacent businesses, to not remove parking on Medford St north of Somerville Ave. Public meeting by OSPCD in mid-August, Jennifer to notify SBC. There was also a question as to when Medford Street south of Somerville Ave will be re-surfaced as it continues to deteriorate and has been on the City's list for re-surfacing since 2013. **Action Item: Ken & Tim, maybe with LSA & BCU, to write a letter to support the current plan to remove parking on Medford St. Action: Jennifer to update the SBC as to status of Medford St. re-surfacing.**
- Neighborway Pilot: Mark Chase sponsored & led the Neighborway Project at the Traffic Commission meeting, which was met with good support, especially from SPD & DPW. City will work with Mark Chase & T&P to set this up in early fall. Willoughby Street will potentially be the pilot but it's not clear at this time how much of the Neighborway will be piloted.
- Beacon Street: ROWs and easements are now concluded. Project will go back out to bid in the near future. Construction planned for 2016-2018. OSPCD, City Communication Dept., T&P, and SPD developing a communication plan for construction work. **Action Item: SBC members to recommend communication methods and timing via email to Jennifer.**
- Union Sq circulation plan: Meeting August 26 or 27 after 5pm to meet with city and consultant about long term circulation. Thursday would be better for city employees. This meeting is for SBC members to attend.
- Summer St: T&P is open to considering shifting parking to create a climbing lane. The big issue here is working with community and residents to make the neighborhood/public meeting works. **Action Item: SBC members to work with Mark Chase, neighborhood and aldermen Hewston and McWaters to promote this.**
- Park St bike box: First bike box in Somerville. Needs a large amount of education. T&P not comfortable with bike lanes against parked cars. **Action Item: Engineering team to make a new proposal, preferably to shift parking to other side of street or remove parking altogether.**
- Bike/ped counts: Jennifer wants to work with Eval. & Planning team to coordinate counts.
- Department ex-officio meetings: DPW and T&P won't be able to meet till after construction season. Meeting with Mayor will be first.

Team Updates

- Encouragement
 - Block party at whole foods this weekend. Advertised digitally. **Action Item: SBC members to repost.**
 - Discussed what annual events we should continue or begin.
 - Would like to have more informal, low obstacle meet ups.
 - Discussed that we should promote learn to bicycle classes. Jan Marie interested in taking over learn to bike classes from Susan McLucas, who is looking to retire from her successful business.
- Evaluation & Planning
 - Mystic Crossing: Rumor that Mayor not be in favor, b/c it is part of casino. Jennifer had not heard of any such position by the City or the Mayor.
 - Washington St at Boys & Girls Club Building: There is no street design plan for this location. **Action item: Engineering to propose a cycle track or interim proposal (unanimous vote for engineering team to do this)**
- Enforcement & Education
 - Met with police department, Deputy Chief Carrabino and Officer Manfra.
 - Trying to meet with SPD once per month
 - Have a source for rules of the road publication, but they need translations, since the police express that many, if not most, infractions are by non-English speakers.
 - SPD invited us to hang out during a red light stake out.
 - Cycle Kids with Officer Manfra for all fifth graders for 8 weeks. Officer Manfra invited SBC members to help her.
 - Deputy Chief & SPD interested or agreeable with ID stop and bike scramble.
 - Jan Marie interested in joining Enforcement and Education team.
- Engineering
 - Creating a spreadsheet project tracking list, to be shared as appropriate.
 - Need to establish distinction between Engineering and Evaluation & Planning responsibilities. How to do what (Engineering) vs. what to do where (Evaluation and Planning).

Standing Items (not discussed, except as noted above)

1. SCATV show appearance
2. McGrath boulevard and interim improvements
3. Central Broadway Streetscape
4. Beacon Street construction staging
5. Revised Zoning Ordinance
6. Neighborways
7. Traffic Commission temporal one-way exception request
8. Safety information mailings

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.