

PBAC Meeting Minutes January 26, 2022, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Present:

David Cohen, Laurie Harmon, Adrian Serieyssol, Richard Rein, Phil Chao, Carol Hollingsworth, Dan Rappaport, Tineke Thio, Lisa Serieyssol, Perry Jones.

Perry doing minutes today.

Minutes from November and December meetings.

November minutes approved. December minutes will be approved later.

Nominations for office next year:

Phil nominates Laurie to be chair, and Dan nominates Perry to be Vice Chair. All in favor.

Meeting schedule for 2022:

If we do first Mondays, next meeting is Feb 7. We could do First Mondays, except for July 4 and Labor day. On those two dates, we could do Wednesdays. Tineke suggested Wednesdays instead of First Mondays. For Feb, we could do Feb 9 (because our January meeting was delayed), and then after that, first Wednesdays going forward.

Engineering and Council Updates:

David presenting.

Infrastructure and operations meeting was yesterday after engineering shared their goals for the year. Pavement markings are already on their agenda.

Ordinance introduced Monday at Council meeting, changing how PBAC liaison will work. Instead of engineering, it can be some other support individual. Deanna said it can be from someone from traffic safety bureau, instead. Dave is supportive because engineering is understaffed right now. They are trying to hire a land use engineer, and they just lost a project manager to retirement. There will be more planning work for PBAC this year, because the master plan is going to be redone this year; and they will need input from PBAC a lot. Dave thinks it can be good to have different groups rotate in.

Lisa: it would be good for us to try to anticipate this, and based on next month's agenda, try to bring in a certain staff person.

David: Deanna is very in favor of us having a running list of engineering projects that are of interest to PBAC. Engineering can give us information about this list on a monthly basis.

Tineke: She thinks that PBAC should maintain this google doc. Doesn't want people to forget these projects. Tineke will share this list. Lisa has been working on a list as well.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xKceGEcKWSl8hgiKq3AcblpkVYwv1TbxErrwjhYbnw/edit#heading=h.uhca4drjgy38>

David: thinks that it should be our document, with encouragement to engineering to edit and add things to the document.

David: Engineering is putting together 2022 goals. Some goals of interest to PBAC: Corridor study for Harrison, mostly North Harrison. Southern border of Corridor study is Nassau. Has not gone out to bid yet.

In a call late this afternoon about Federal Infrastructure Bill; there was a definite awareness that there is a safe streets for all aspect of that infrastructure, specifically vision Zero. David and Deanna were saying that implementation of Hamilton and Wiggins corridor may be a good candidate for this type of funding, because it's expensive due to round about where Chambers hits Paul Robeson and signal at Walnut that are part of plans (which are expensive). Federal funding always moves slowly.

All other Bike Boulevard markings is a goal as well. Dave wants markings to be further into the center of the street; he has communicated that with Engineering.

Lisa: has there been any consideration of cross street markings in Bike Boulevards? David said no, but he'll bring it up with Deanna.

Laurie: LHT has a lot of signs that may be a good thing to copy for our bike boulevards, like where driveways cross the LHT.

David: has had communications with administrator Bernie Hvozdovic about communications and helping education efforts, especially around bike boulevards. David is working with Civic eye; they may be a good consultant to help with that. Thinking about having a full-time position for "PIO," principle information officer, that could help with communication and education efforts.

Tineke: What happened to recruiting Jason Rohde for Vision Zero subcommittee? David; he asked him, and he said that he is interested, but didn't want to chair the subcommittee. He was busy at the time. Tineke said that he may be more interested in doing it now.

Lisa: Heard that in comments about disbanding of S.P.R.A.B., (Site Plan Review Advisory Board) there was a reference to starting examining master plan again. Witherspoon phase 2 may get rolled into master plan reexamination.

David: we aren't doing just a reexamination, we are doing an overhaul of the master plan. Reexamination happens much more often than an overhaul.

David: Saying we are overloading master plan with too many things; for instance, Permit Parking. People who are against something can put something in the master plan as a way to stall things.

Tineke: Going back to PBAC liaison change; feels that it is very important to have a permanent engineering liaison, because we have so much interaction with engineering. Tineke wants us to have a permanent person after the staffing shortage is over.

Lisa: Thinking that maybe we can have a counterproposal to the liaison ordinance, so that when engineering returns to full complement, liaison would return to engineering on an "every meeting" basis.

David and Laurie: We can request that. Feels that a lot of our questions are for engineering, but lots of them are straight forward, so we may be able to use that running document. Laurie says that once per quarter would be a good thing to request.

David: Deanna is happy to come to our meetings when we need them, but they want some consideration as to how over worked they are right now. They want to have some flexibility into the ordinance, so that engineering doesn't always have to have someone at the PBAC meeting.

Tineke: Wants to keep the current PBAC/ Engineering ordinance as is, with engineering being here being required. However, there should be a temporary exemption for this year, since they are understaffed; doesn't want to change the whole ordinance.

David: thinks it would be better to just go with what engineering is asking for now.

Tineke wants it to be made clear to engineering that we are going with it, but we would like to revisit this in a year, when they are not short staffed.

Perry: Let's make it clear to engineering too that they don't have to stay for the whole meeting.

Laurie: Anything else from subcommittees?

Lisa: Wants to talk about map of crashes; Laurie says that will be later in the agenda.

David: Trying to get answers on availability of funding for Vision Zero steering committee.

Lisa: this is 2021 map showing crash data. Is a google map.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=15twbiKx9zuEx-nd08QlfJNpN_R-MhgOf&userstoinvite=lbharmon123%40gmail.com&actionButton=1&ll=40.35226380384374%2C-74.67764864218044&z=14

Red is pedestrian crashes. Purple is bike crashes. Some spots have multiple crashes at one spot.

Most of pedestrian crashes are in cross walks. Most of those were when there were pedestrians crossing with a signal.

Police say that there are 16 crashes, but often there are more than 16 individuals; there can be multiple individuals in each crash.

Technically speaking, a scooter is considered a pedestrian. Skateboard too.

David: Said that engineering would like us to figure out some policies for micro-mobility. Also, Engineering is harmonizing rules of where bikes can ride on side-walks.

Tineke: How many of these crashes led to injuries?

Lisa: most had some injuries; some people refused treatment, some went to hospitals.

Lisa: Thought that crash data would help us as we work on our goals.

Adrian: how many of drivers who hit people were local and out of towners? Lisa: Drivers who hit people were a mix of locals and out of towners.

Goals:

Tineke: Looked over list. There are a lot of worthwhile projects. A lot of it is very nitty gritty. Since engineering is really over stretched, there is too much in the document for us to deal with. Tineke feels that we should really prioritize. Feels that we should look at the big picture, and see what we can really do. We are not engineers; we are an advisory body. We advise the mayor and council. It is up to them to act; it's not up to us.

David: is going to show what Deanna's list is, to see what is already being addressed. There has been some push in council that advisory committees should be doing more advice, and not

advocacy. However, David doesn't totally agree with that distinction. Council doesn't know what they don't know, so we shouldn't necessarily wait for them to ask us for advice; some times we have to advise them.

Tineke: Does council really want to act on these goals? Feels that bike boulevard project took too long. How effective can we expect to be? Feels that not a lot has been happening, and is disappointed.

David: Doesn't know how to answer the question. All members of council have pet projects. Then they have a second tier of projects that they will support, but that they won't drive.

We have hired a consultant; Michael Sullivan from an architecture firm in Trenton. To help with master plan.

They may not do a lot of public comment, but we may just be asked for advice. Dave thinks it would be helpful for people in PBAC to start deciding on input now, because it will be asked for eventually.

We are going through a document: Laurie prepared it, and then Deanna added a lot of purple annotations.

Trying to finish Infrastructure section.

Events that Lisa is bringing up:

Porch Fest: 4/24. Performing artists scattered on porches throughout the town, and people go around town.

May 14-15: East coast greenway bike tour.

Laurie: Said our banner is in bad shape.

David: Said that we could get funding for replacing banner.

Lisa: Said that we should also consider the Wheels Rodeo as an event; it may conflict with the E. Coast greenway tour.

Next meeting will be on Feb 9, and we will work to continue refining goals.

Phil is volunteering to go car free for a year.