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**CITY OF ROHNERT PARK
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 25, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: Rohnert Park City Council Chambers, Rohnert Park City Hall,
130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, California**

The City of Rohnert Park Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) welcomes your attendance, interest and participation at its regular meetings, scheduled on the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m., and its special meetings, which are scheduled as needed.

Public Comments during the Meeting: Members of the Public can provide public comment at the meeting. Comments are limited to three minutes per appearance with a maximum allowance of 30 minutes allotted per comment period. Members of the public may also provide advanced public comment by sending comments to the Senior Public Works Analyst by email at etacata@rpcity.org. Comments are requested by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

American Disability Act Accommodations: Any member of the public who needs accommodations should email the ADA Coordinator at jcannon@rpcity.org or by calling 707- 588- 2221. The ADA Coordinator will use their best efforts to provide reasonable accommodations to provide as much accessibility as possible while also maintaining public safety in accordance with the City procedure for resolving reasonable accommodation requests. Reasonable accommodations information is on the City website at: https://www.rpcity.org/city_hall/departments/human_resources/a_d_a_and_accessibility_resources

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee agendas and minutes may be viewed on the City's website: www.rpcity.org.

MEETING ITEMS

1. Call To Order/Roll-Call:

Jan Ogren (Chair) ___ Steve Keith (Vice-Chair) ___ Gary Gutierrez ___ Tim Hensel ___ Shirley Johnson ___

2. Introductions

3. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

"The City of Rohnert Park acknowledges Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the land. Let it be acknowledged that the City of Rohnert Park is located within the traditional homelands of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, comprised of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo peoples."

4. Public Comments (on items not on the Agenda)

5. Consideration of Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2024 Meeting (Action)

6. Bike Path Audits and May 2024 Event (Discussion)

7. Countywide and Rohnert Park Active Transportation Plan Update (Discussion)

8. Project Updates (Information)

- Hinebaugh Creek Path Improvements and Snyder Lane Crossing
- Parks and Paths Map

9. New Matters for Future Consideration (Discussion)

10. Adjournment (Action)

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA: I, Eydie Tacata, Senior Public Works Analyst for the City of Rohnert Park, declare that the foregoing agenda for the March 25, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Rohnert Park Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee was posted and available for review on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at Rohnert Park City Hall, Community and Senior Centers, Public Safety Main Building. The agenda is also available on the City web site at www.rpcity.org.

Executed this 20th day of March, 2024, at Rohnert Park, California.
Eydie Tacata, Senior Public Works Analyst



DRAFT

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
Meeting Minutes**

5:30 PM, Monday, February 26, 2024
Rohnert Park City Hall, City Council Chambers
130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, California

Members Present: Jan Ogren (Chair) X Steve Keith (Vice Chair) X
Gary Gutierrez X Tim Hensel X Shirley Johnson X

Non-Voting Participants: Eydie Tacata (Senior Public Works Analyst, City of Rohnert Park); Dustin De Matteo, Sustainability Manager, City of Rohnert Park); Jim Barrios (BPAC Liaison, Rohnert Park Parks & Recreation Commission); Emily Shartin (Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition)

1. Call to Order

Chair Jan Ogren called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. Introductions

Chair Ogren commenced self-introductions.

3. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

Tim Hensel, BPAC Member, read the Land Acknowledgement on the Meeting Agenda.

4. Public Comments

Riley, resident, commented that it is difficult to travel over the Rohnert Park Expressway overcrossing on bike. Riley also said that they do not feel safe on the bike lanes and that the lanes should be separated from cars with physical barriers. They also would like more public benches for pedestrians and improved visibility of the bus stops.

Emily Shartin, Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator (Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition), shared that on February 29th from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, the Bike Coalition is co-hosting a workshop with the City of Cotati on the first draft of their Active Transportation Plan. Rohnert Park is invited to attend, especially given the connecting bike paths and the two SMART Stations.

5. Consideration of Approval of Minutes for 1/22/2024 meeting

Susan Johnson, BPAC Member, moved to approve the meeting minutes; Gary Gutierrez, BPAC Member, seconded. The meeting minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0-0-0.

6. Bike Path Audits and Earth Day 2024 Event

Dustin De Matteo, Sustainability Manager, explained that the Community Services Department is planning an Earth Day event in April. He said that participation in the Bike Path Audits could be promoted at an event table. He created a Google form of the Bike Path Audit, and now he is looking for the BPAC's input on it. The advantage with the Google form is that the data can be transferred to a spreadsheet for analysis. People could access the form via a QR code on a giveaway like a water bottle. Chair Ogren asked about the time of the Earth Day event. Mr. De Matteo said it is planned for 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Mr. Keith asked if the Google form could support additional comments via a pop-up if certain values in the form are selected; for example, if someone selected the “unpleasant / poor” checkbox to describe “User Experience”, could there be a pop-up to type in comments clarifying why the path experience was negative? Mr. De Matteo said he thinks this is possible.

Chair Ogren suggested combining categories to make form easier to fill out, for example, Condition and Safety, Comfort and Aesthetics, Accessibility and User-Friendliness. Chair Ogren also asked to clarify the survey target, as it asks, “How much do you use this path?” The original audit asked for a count of, and observations about of other path users, not about the auditor themselves. Mr. De Matteo said that he felt it was important to include the auditor’s experience.

Mr. Keith said that it would be interesting to know how the users got to the path being audited. Mr. De Matteo said he would add that question in the first section.

Ms. Johnson asked if there would be a beta testing of the audit form. Mr. De Matteo said that he would like to launch the beta at the Earth Day event.

Mr. Gutierrez asked who was going to do the audit. Ms. Tacata said the BPAC could do the audit themselves like the first time, or recruit volunteers at the Earth Day event. The BPAC could decide to conduct the audit on a specific day or days, or over a longer timeframe. They could launch the audits at one time with a group or have volunteers do audits on their own time.

Mr. Gutierrez said that while conducting the audits with a larger group is good, it is hard to find a single time that works for all of them. Regarding the dispersed approach, identifying the path locations being audited is an issue. There should be a drop-down list of path segments, or a way to indicate “this is my location” while doing the audit. Mr. Hensel asked if there was a way to have a map pop up on which someone can click on their location. Mr. De Matteo said he would have his intern look into this. Chair Ogren also said the segments need to be better defined.

Mr. Gutierrez asked about the language proficiency level of the form, mentioning the standard proficiency of 5th grade level of English. He noted that he’s not seen surveys like this in Spanish.

Chair Ogren suggested changing the name of the form from “Audit” to “Feedback Form”.

Mr. De Matteo suggested that high school students needing community service hours and Sonoma State University students seeking sustainability credits are other sources of volunteers.

Ms. Tacata suggested that the BPAC form an ad hoc committee to work more on the Bike Path Audit project in relation to the Earth Day 2024 event. Chair Ogren moved to form an ad hoc committee consisting of Jan Ogren and Gary Gutierrez to work on this issue. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0-0-0.

7. Parks and Paths Map

Chair Ogren introduced the item, explaining that the City had neither a parks map nor a current bike map, so they thought that these City assets could be combined on one map. Mr. Keith also said he believed the intention of the map to be also how to use the bike paths to get to parks.

Mr. Keith said he attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and that the Commission staff asked the BPAC to give a presentation about the map idea. Mr. Keith said that he thought about how different generations would use a map: Some would be comfortable accessing a map on their phones, while others would prefer PDFs posted online. He said that he personally likes a sturdy, physical and weatherproof map, but understands that not everyone is great at reading paper maps. He imagined that a presentation to the Parks and Rec Commission would describe all of these options.

Jim Barrios, Parks & Recreation Commissioner / BPAC Liaison, said that the Commissioners didn't need details; they just had a few questions. He felt a BPAC presentation would "keep the ball rolling" and also gauge how the Commission would like to partner on the project.

Ms. Tacata said that a bike map was already a project in the Rohnert Park Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and City's parks would naturally be included in the map as one of many types of destinations. Ms. Shartin added that the map should show the routes with bike paths and on-street lanes that people could use to get to the places they want in addition to parks, including schools, bus and transit stops.

Riley (member of the public) commented that the issue with looking at a digital map on a phone is that there is often glare. They would like to have a function of marking something on a map. A useful feature on a map would be an indication of whether a route has hills.

Mr. Barrios said the next Parks and Recreation Commission is on March 4, 2024 at 5:30 PM. Ms. Tacata suggested that BPAC consider a later Parks and Recreation Commission meeting for a presentation, so she can help provide content. Mr. Keith asked for clarification, as it was his understanding that the Parks & Recreation Commission just wanted them to do a presentation about the idea and map options. Ms. Tacata said she felt that more information should be developed and options based on project feasibility and City resource constraints.

Mr. Gutierrez summarized that he understood that after staff gives the BPAC something tangible, then BPAC members could go to the Parks and Rec Commission with a presentation. He further said that the project could be a longer-term project with multiple phases, for example, a Phase 1 of a paper map, and a later phase that might be an app.

8. Project Updates

Hinebaugh Creek Bike Path Rehabilitation

Ms. Tacata explained that there was a meeting in February regarding potential tree removals that would occur in preparation for the Hinebaugh Creek Path Rehabilitation project. Mr. Keith reported that he attended. He relayed that there were potentially 150 trees that could be affected in order to reconstruct the path up to Caltrans standard 10-foot width for paths, and 38 that would be affected to achieve a minimum 8-foot wide path. It was explained at the meeting that some sections of path could be built up over some of the tree roots to reduce the number of tree removals, but unfortunately, some would just have to come out. Mr. Keith relayed additional information he learned about the relatively short history of redwood trees in Rohnert Park.

There was discussion about some residents' displeasure about the proposed tree removals; some of the tags on the trees were being removed.

Camino Colegio Bike/Ped Facilities Improvements

Ms. Tacata relayed the status of several bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Camino Colegio near SOMO Village, including: (1) Signs were recently installed to designate the multi-use path from Magnolia South to the Tank; (2) The fence on SOMO Village's section of the multi-use path cannot be moved to create more pathway space; and (3) the bike facility segment between E. Cotati Avenue and Magnolia Avenue is a later project that needs to be designed.

Countywide and Rohnert Park Active Transportation Plan Update

Ms. Tacata reported that the Active Transportation Plan consultants and City staff have a technical workshop scheduled for March 1, in which they would review a draft project list, project prioritization, policies and programs. She also that another joint Planning

Commission/BPAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Chair Ogren, Ms. Johnson and Mr. Hensel said that at this point they are “maybes’ for attendance because of potential conflicts.

9. New Matters for Future Consideration

Ms. Johnson said that the new superintendent of schools communicated to her about concerns at the intersection of Southwest Boulevard and Burton Avenue.

10. Adjournment

Chair Ogren moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hensel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Eydie Tacata, Recording Secretary
Rohnert Park Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Jan Ogren, Chair
Rohnert Park Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Committee



Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Memorandum

FROM: Eydie Tacata, Senior Public Works Analyst
MEETING DATE: March 25, 2024
AGENDA ITEM: #6
SUBJECT: Bike Path Audits

ISSUE: The BPAC is interested in a second round of Bike Path Audits and is working on improving the form, making it easy to use, and considering ways to engage participants to conduct the surveys.

BACKGROUND: In 2022, the BPAC was shown bike path pavement condition index (PCI) ratings which are used by City staff to plan path rehabilitation projects. The BPAC asked that path *usage* – including types of users, volume, how the path is used – also be considered when prioritizing path rehabilitations. Shortly after, the BPAC and City staff developed a Bike Path Audit form to collect data about observed path usage, general conditions and impressions of segments of the off-street path network. In Fall 2022 and Fall 2023, the BPAC members used the Bike Path Audit form to collect information about most of the segments on the 2018 path PCI list. The BPAC continued to express a desire to further the Bike Path Audit, including refining data collection and methodology; collecting more data in different seasons and times of day; and engaging more community members.

At the February 26, 2023 meeting, the City’s Sustainability Manager, Dustin De Matteo, shared ideas with the BPAC about launching the next bike path audit with an “Earth Day” event in April 2024. Mr. De Matteo also collected feedback on a draft Bike Path Audit that he prepared on Google forms.

DISCUSSION: The Community Services Department is no longer planning an Earth Day Celebration for April and instead is planning a May event. May is coincidentally “Bike to Work (or Everywhere) Month, so the event and bike audit launch are ideally timed.

The Sustainability Manager took the feedback about the Bike Audit Form from the BPAC at their February 26, 2023 meeting and has made some changes to the form, including:

- Added a drop-down of path segment locations “PCI under 65” list
- Updated and attached with most of their basic feedback on consolidating questions,
- Amended to include more basic language for better understanding of the questions, and
- Redirecting on certain questions to receive detailed description based off of egregious responses (unsafe, very unsafe, poor, very poor, etc).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the BPAC members review the [draft Google Form of the Bike Path Audit](#), and provide additional feedback. Staff also recommends that the BPAC continue to discuss the potential launch of the Bike Path Audit at the May event and options for the next Bike Path Audit, including:

- Event table: Recruit volunteers?
- Focused Bike Path Audit (i.e. conducted as a group over a set time) vs. dispersed (i.e. individuals collect and submit data on their own time)
- Testing the online form
- Engaging interested, organized groups (e.g. SSU clubs, etc.)