



**Final**

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

5:30 PM, Monday, March, 27, 2023  
Rohnert Park City Hall, City Council Chambers  
130 Avram Avenue, Rohnert Park, California

**Members Present:** Gary Gutierrez (chair) X Jan Ogren (vice chair) X Tim Hensel X  
Steve Keith X Shirley Johnson X

**Non-Voting Participants:** Ashley Cotter (Management Analyst, City of Rohnert Park), Emily Shartin (Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition).

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Gary Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

**2. Introductions**

Chair Gutierrez commenced self-introductions.

**3. Public Comments**

Ms. Shartin commented that Camino Collegio south of East Cotati bike lane is worn on the south bound side, and that there is parking next to the bike lane that intrudes on the lane itself. Ms. Cotter pulled up Google Maps for the section Ms. Shartin was mentioning so all BPAC members could see and comment. Mr. Gutierrez asked if there was supposed to be parking next to the bike lane – Mx. Ogren responded that this is also the case on Golf Course Drive. Ms. Shartin also stated that curb is not painted red (if it needed to be). She commented that there is a lot of work being done in that area near SOMO Village, and asked this area would be worked on more. Mx Ogren remarked that this is a good topic to bring up for discussion. Ms. Johnson remarked that the section of road could benefit from a road diet, as there didn't seem to be a need for two lanes at that section. Mr. Gutierrez mentioned that if someone were to open the door of their car as they were parked next to a bike lane, and someone riding their bike comes along, it wouldn't be good.

**4. Consideration of Approval of Minutes for 2/27/2023 meeting**

Mx. Ogren commented that she had a correction to the minutes, to reflect that Mx. Ogren commented that the Hinebaugh Creek path from country club to the golf course is not used as much since it dead ends at the golf course - while the path from Five Creek to Snyder is in bad shape and would be used more especially when the K section to Snyder is improved.

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the minutes with corrections, Mx. Ogren seconded. Minutes from 2/27/23 minutes approved: 5 ayes, 0 abstentions

**5. Bike Path Audit**

Ms. Cotter prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the bike path audits performed by BPAC members between the end of October and mid-November last year (2022). The presentation reviewed all of the audits conducted and the resulting findings. Some of the findings included:

- highest use section was section 10: Five Creek Path from Across from Eagle Park to Confluence with Hinebaugh Creek,
- the average number of boke path users per audit was approximately 14,
- most observations found that the creek paths were either somewhat distressed or very distressed,
- Some sections were observed more than once (section 10 was observed 5 times over the audit period), most reported sections were audited once
- Auditors noted the most groups on the bike path between 12-2:30pm
- 9 of the audited sections observed no usage of bicycles/scooters/strollers/wheelchairs, and 12 of the audited sections observed some usage
- Of 26 Sections, 5 sections were not observed

Mx. Ogren commented that she had asked people she saw on the bike paths if they regularly used the paths, several responded that there were path sections they actively avoided due to path conditions. Mr. Gutierrez commented that the Five Creek path looked like a high priority area. Mx. Ogren asked if this audit interfaced with the City's Capital Improvement Program – Ms. Cotter responded that it did not, but that these findings are very helpful for determining future projects. Mr. Hensel commented that the time allocated for auditors to complete their audits was very limited, and had wished it was longer. Mr. Hensel further commented that usage for the current time period (late October – mid November), had the audit period been longer, results could have provided a better spectrum of users, and that this audit period also captured the change in daylight savings. Mr. Hensel pointed out that had the audit period taken place in July, auditors wouldn't have been able to keep track of the number of kids on Copeland Creek path, for example. Mr. Keith commented that observing traffic on a Friday night market night in the summer would also yield different results. Mr. Keith observed that the audits could be more beneficial if the audits were more consistent across periods of time, as the audit discussed didn't capture items such as school getting out for summer or starting in early fall, Friday night markets, all of which don't happen in late fall. Mr. Keith felt that a quarterly audit would be better for consistent data. Mx. Ogren commented that usage overall was down from what they usually observe, which was probably attributed to the time of the year that the audit was conducted during. Mx. Ogren also asked about feedback on the audit sheets provided. Ms. Cotter responded that this was a great first go with the audits, and that it yielded some good feedback for the City – moving forward, we should work together to further define the parameters, and that numerical data is the best kind from a data visualization point of view. Mr. Gutierrez recommended that the BPAC agendaize this item to move forward on. Mr. Hensel also commented that during his audits he encountered homeless encampment in the creek area near a school that had been there for a few days, so he called public safety. He noted that public safety was very quick to respond, and ushered the people to a different location.

## **6. List of items for discussion**

Ms. Cotter presented a list of items that had previously been discussed at the January BPAC meeting. Mx. Ogren provided some updates per the discussion in January, such as prioritizing certain topics, and noting which topics had been covered sufficiently. Additions to this list included a field trip to the trail to Crane Canyon, moving forward with future bike path audits. Items removed due to sufficient coverage include Bus stop amenities and the intersection of Rohnert Park Expressway and

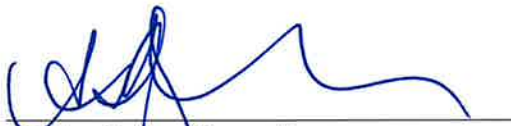
Commerce – pedestrian timing. Mr. Gutierrez suggested that, since having Public Safety visit was a high priority item, to think of questions and send them to Ms. Cotter prior to coordinating the visit.

#### **7. New Matters for Future Consideration**

Mr. Keith noted that recently there's been a big shift in students at Evergreen Elementary being driven to school instead of walking which has had an impact on parking along Emily Ave. Ms. Shartin commented that there are programs with the Sonoma County Bike Coalition, such as Safe Routes to School, which is still an active program that aims to work in tandem with the schools and cities. Ms. Shartin posed a question to the group – what level of involvement would they want from an organization like Safe Routes to School? Mr. Keith questioned who made changes to policy regarding this – the school or the city? Ms. Shartin further questioned what the actual change in question was. Mr. Keith responded that there has been an increase in signage at Evergreen Elementary as an attempt to manage traffic, such as no double parking, etc., signs that it's good to drive your kids to school. Mr. Keith commented that his perception of it was a clear movement to support parents driving to school. Mr. Keith further commented about whether or not that's a good position to be in – coaxing people away from letting their students walk to school, even though Evergreen Elementary is close to a lot of trails. Mr. Gutierrez suggested it could have been the school, and also suggested BPAC members agendaize this matter for future discussion. Mx. Ogren commented that connecting with the bike coalition would be beneficial, and wondered if efforts could be supported through the City. Mx. Ogren also commented that Golf Course Dr., is also very crowded when school lets out. Ms. Shartin commented that she had a colleague who might be able to give an overview of Safe Routes to School, if that discussion would be helpful. BPAC members agreed it would be an interesting matter for future consideration.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Gutierrez moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Hensel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.



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Ashley Cotter, Recording Secretary  
Rohnert Park Bicycle and  
Pedestrian Advisory Committee



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Gary Gutierrez, Chair  
Rohnert Park Bicycle and  
Pedestrian Advisory Committee