



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

5:30 PM, Monday, May, 22, 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 0

**Non-Voting Participants:** Ashley Cotter (Management Analyst, City of Rohnert Park), Jim Barrios (Parks and Recreation Commissioner), Jason Sampietro (Assistant Engineer, City of Rohnert Park)

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Gary Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**2. Introductions**

Chair Gutierrez commenced self-introductions.

**3. Public Comments**

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Barrios was present at the meeting. He introduced himself to BPAC members, and relayed that if there are any issues that BPAC members felt would be relevant to discuss at Parks and Recreation meetings, they could coordinate with him. Mx. Ogren noted that it was great to have him here, and asked if he could provide an overview of what the commission does for parks and recreation in Rohnert Park. Mr. Barrios provided a brief overview of the Parks and Recreation Committee meetings.

**4. Consideration of Approval of Minutes for 4/24/2023 meeting**

Mr. Gutierrez corrected the start time, the minutes had listed 5:00 start time, and the meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Mx. Ogren motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, Mr. Keith seconded. The 4/24/23 meeting minutes are approved – 3 ayes – 1 abstention (Mr. Hensel), 1 absence (Ms. Johnson).

**5. Camino Colegio Presentation with Jason Sampietro**

Mr. Sampietro presented some background on Camino Colegio. Camino Colegio is a north-south major collector from Southwest Blvd to Bodway Parkway. Mr. Sampietro provided an overview of the various bike facilities on this roadway (chart below):

<u>Section of Camino Colegio</u>	<u>Bike/Pedestrian facilities</u>
From Southwest Blvd to East Cotati Ave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 through lane in each direction</li> <li>• 1 Class Two bike lane in each direction</li> <li>• Street parking on the west side of the road</li> </ul>

From East Cotati to Magnolia Ave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 through lanes in each direction</li> <li>• 1 Class Four multidirectional bike lane on the west side protected by an asphalt dike</li> <li>• 1 Class Two bike lane on the east side</li> </ul>
From Magnolia Ave to Bodway Parkway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 through lanes in each direction</li> <li>• 1 multi use pathway on the west and south side</li> <li>• Parking on the east/north side of the road</li> </ul>

From Mx. Ogren commented that she was aware of the multidirectional bike lane but wasn't aware of the multidirectional bike facility on the east side section of Camino Colegio. Mr. Keith commented that the multidirectional bike facility didn't start until further down the section of Camino Colegio. Mr. Sampietro commented that the bike lane goes through all parking on the side of the street, and that the class two bike lane on East Cotati to Magnolia Ave was worn through and needed restriping. Mx. Ogren mentioned that this segment reminded them of Golf Course. Mr. Sampietro clarified if they meant the section by Honeybee Park. Mx. Ogren confirmed, and commented that the solid line on that section was there for parking. Mr. Sampietro responded that this section was originally designed as a bike lane as well. Mx. Ogren noted that they recalled seeing a "no parking" sign in the area. Mr. Sampietro responded that that section has a wide parking lane, almost eight feet wide, which is why cars park there. After Ms. Cotter pulled the section up on Google Earth, BPAC members discovered that it was a street sweeping sign. Mr. Sampietro noted that this area is often in competition for parking with residents from the numerous apartment complexes, Honeybee park users, and crowds from swim meets. Mr. Sampietro also explained that it is illegal to park in the bike lane, with or without signage. Mr. Gutierrez asked about repainting the bike lane, to which Mr. Sampietro responded that he'd cover that later on in the presentation. BPAC members questioned enforcement, Mr. Sampietro responded that enforcement is a Public Safety question. Ms. Cotter noted that she would include that question in BPAC's list of questions for Public Safety.

Mr. Sampietro continued his presentation, noting recent improvements to Camino Colegio:

<u>Road Section</u>	<u>Improvements made</u>
Intersection of Southwest Blvd and Camino Colegio	Pedestrian Scramble
Magnolia Ave to SOMO Campus	New 8 ft wide concrete pathway
Bodway Parkway and Camino Colegio Crosswalk	New Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

Mr. Sampietro commented that Bodway is a fast road, and crossing can be dangerous, so the new RRFB has helped. Mx. Ogren commented that the new pathway from Magnolia to Bodway is very

nice, but there is no signage. Mr. Sampietro confirmed that it was newly done. Mr. Hensel commented that he noticed a lot of RRFBs going in throughout the City, and was very impressed. Mr. Sampietro responded that they are part of a recent pedestrian improvement project, about 6-7 sets are going in. Mr. Gutierrez commented that the lights are awesome and make a big difference – cars are stopping and waiting for pedestrians to get to the other side before proceeding.

Mr. Sampietro continued his presentation, noting potential issues along Camino Colegio:

- Parking in the bike lane;
- Worn out striping;
- Non-continuous bicycle features;
- Confusion for cyclists new to the area.

Mr. Gutierrez asked about enforcement actions for the various features. Mr. Sampietro responded that the laws differ between each feature. Mr. Keith commented that in San Francisco, there's a 10 ft rule – the pedestrian is 10 ft away from the vehicle, with the goal being that the pedestrian is on the curb before the vehicle proceeds. Mr. Sampietro responded that pedestrian refuges and the laws that accompany them vary. Mr. Keith noted that Mr. Sampietro's work lays a base for enforcement.

BPAC members continued discussing bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Camino Colegio. Mr. Keith noted that on the section between Southwest and East Cotati it goes through a number of transitions, including the median line disappearing which causes confusion for both drivers and cyclists. Mr. Sampietro responded that that is actually a feature for traffic cooling, and is a proven traffic safety measure. Mr. Keith voiced his confusion, noting that drivers could drift into the bike lane, posing a safety concern. Mr. Sampietro responded that nervous drivers are slow drivers, which is why it is so effective. Mr. Keith noted that perhaps the risk of a driver drifting into the bike lane and not leaving enough room for cyclists on that stretch of road was an unintended consequence of this traffic cooling feature. Ms. Cotter pulled up this section of Camino Colegio on Google Maps, and it was observed by BPAC members that in this picture, the situation Mr. Keith had been describing – a car was driving in the middle of the road on Camino Colegio. Mr. Keith continued that the overall goal is to make biking safer and more comfortable, so these unintended consequences don't necessarily support that. Mr. Ogren asked Mr. Keith if he was suggesting a line down the road in this section. Mr. Keith responded that it would be good to look into alternatives to see if there is an achievable compromise. Mr. Sampietro responded that this is a pretty narrow section of road, so the alternative would mean getting rid of street parking. Mr. Hensel noted that about six years ago BPAC held a meeting to discuss eliminating parking on Camino Colegio to make room for bike facilities, and it was a very heated meeting with multiple members of the public attending because they did not want to lose the street parking. Mr. Gutierrez responded that these issues can become very heated, and that striking a balance to balance safety while encouraging biking is important. Mr. Sampietro pulled up the County's Vision Zero Dashboard on SCTA, which showed only 2 vehicular accidents, neither of which involved pedestrians or cyclists in six years. Mr. Hensel noted that he saw lots of kids biking to and from on Southwest to East Cotati. Mr. Gutierrez replied that the data does not support the statement that this is an unsafe area. Mr. Sampietro noted that the data we are observing is only reported data.

Mr. Sampietro concluded his presentation with proposed improvements:

- Pathway extension by SOMO Village to Bodway Parkway;
- Pathway extension by City to East Cotati Ave;

- Addition of signage indicating multi use pathway;
- Restriping bike lanes.

Mr. Sampietro commented that the Public Works crew is scheduled to be out next week painting over bike lanes as a hold over until the thermoplastic striping can be completed. Mr. Gutierrez confirmed with Mr. Sampietro that the proposed improvements were in progress. Mr. Gutierrez thanked Mr. Sampietro for his time and presentation, and asked the BPAC if there were any additional questions.

Mx. Ogren detailed next steps – asking Public Safety about various cars parking in the bike lane. Mr. Sampietro responded that there are three dedicated employees to look at car parking enforcement, so he will make a note to address it with them. Mr. Hensel noted that some of the cars had been there for an extended period of time. Commissioner Barrios asked about the different classes of bike lanes. Mr. Sampietro responded with the following:

- Class 1: separate bike way/path that is removed from the roadway (bike path)
- Class 2: striped along a roadway, not protected
- Class 3: shared lane marking
- Class 4: separated bike way – a class 2 bike lane with some sort of separation, or could be multi directional.

Mx. Ogren commented that there are no class three bike lanes in Rohnert Park, which Mr. Sampietro confirmed.

Regarding the in-progress improvements, Mr. Gutierrez asked Mr. Sampietro if he'd be willing to come back and provide an update after improvements were concluded – Mr. Sampietro estimated that they would be complete in August/September.

## **6. Bicycle/Pedestrian Access to Sunrise Park off of San Francisco Way**

Mx. Ogren had provided a picture of Sunrise Park at San Francisco Way prior to the meeting for discussion. Mx. Ogren pointed out that from this point of entry there is no bicycle/ADA access to get to trails. Mx. Ogren also noted that Sunrise is a very popular park, so San Francisco Way is often a street that people park on when there is no parking in the parking lot. Mr. Sampietro asked if Mx. Ogren was requesting a curb cut. Mr. Hensel added that the other entrance on San Francisco Way does not have accessibility, there are three entrances to Sunrise Park in total. Mr. Keith noted that the only ramp was in the parking lot. Mr. Sampietro clarified that the group was requesting a curb ramp. Commissioner Barrios commented that it would be best to do a curb cut, and not create a ramp that's not going anywhere (i.e, access to a crosswalk), and creating a ramp to go into the road way will result in a hazard. Mr. Sampietro told the group he would bring it up, but could make no promises on actionable results for this request at this time as it is not a true public safety hazard. Mx. Ogren noted that there are only two handicapped spaces next to the curb access, people are requesting more spaces, especially as the space is used more for community events. Mx. Ogren asked how suggestions get moved through. Mr. Sampietro responded that one way is to go to Council, different suggestions will have different responses depending on severity and funding available. Mr. Sampietro reiterated that he would check on the feasibility of this. Mr. Gutierrez thanked Mr. Sampietro and Mr. Barrios for the information and education.

## **7. New Matters for Future Consideration and Review of Future Agenda Items**

Ms. Cotter provided a list of new matters for future consideration that BPAC members reviewed and commented on. Mr. Keith mentioned a discussion regarding riding bikes – at Evergreen Elementary, signage was added and the curb was reconfigured. Mr. Sampietro responded that the City doesn't make those calls, the school district has an easement and can ask for permission but it's not necessarily under the City's purview. Mx. Ogren commented that the loading zone looks friendly. Mr. Keith reiterated that the changes to Evergreen Elementary regarding parking seems to be encouraging students not to walk or bike, but if BPAC members felt it has been sufficiently covered, then it doesn't necessarily need to be agendized and discussed again. Mx. Ogren asked if the City had maps of the bike and pedestrian pathways. Mr. Sampietro noted that there was a county-wide map, but nothing specific to Rohnert Park. Mx. Ogren and Mr. Keith agreed that the Sonoma County map was too broad. Mr. Sampietro told BPAC members he would check on the feasibility of a Rohnert Park specific bike and pedestrian map. Mr. Gutierrez addressed the topic of bicycle parking. Mr. Hensel noted that BPAC members had taken inventory. Mr. Gutierrez suggested that we review previous minutes. Mr. Gutierrez also noted that there were five sections of audit that were not done.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mx. Ogren moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Hensel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.



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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