



FINAL

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

5:30 PM, Monday, September 25, 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: Eydie Tacata (Senior Public Works Analyst, City of Rohnert Park), Ashley Cotter (Management Analyst, City of Rohnert Park), Eris Weaver (Executive Director, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introductions

Chair Gutierrez commenced self-introductions.

3. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

Ms. Johnson read the Land Acknowledgement as shown on the BPAC Meeting Agenda.

4. Public Comments

Eris Weaver, Executive Director of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition (SCBC), relayed a few announcements:

- The Golden Spoke Awards Gala on Saturday, October 14th will honor Bike Advocate of the Year and achievements such as Project of the Year. The event is a fundraiser with a silent auction that can also be accessed online. Information is online at BikeSonoma.org/gala.
- Walk and Roll to School Day is taking place this upcoming week, so there will be lots of students on the paths.
- SCBC's first-ever Advocacy Summit is on October 21, 2023 at the Sonoma Clean Power Center in Santa Rosa. It is a mini-conference modeled after the Silicon Valley Bike Summit. Advocates, local government staff, elected officials and other speakers will be there to share information and encouragement. More information is available at bikesonoma.org.

5. Consideration of Approval of Minutes for 7/24/2023 meeting

BPAC Member Shirley Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes; Chair Gutierrez seconded. Meeting minutes were approved without corrections: 4 ayes, 1 abstention (Hensel).

6. Countywide Active Transportation Plan and Rohnert Park Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Eydie Tacata, staff to the BPAC, provided a background to the current effort by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority to update the Countywide Active Transportation Plan ("CAT Plan"). She explained that the CAT Plan serves as an umbrella to participating jurisdictions' Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans; for this update, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Cloverdale,

Healdsburg, Sonoma, and the County of Sonoma are included. Ms. Weaver clarified that Cotati was also participating, though they started their plan update independently and are further along.

Ms. Tacata explained the relationship between the General Plan and the Active Transportation Plan as an implementing document. She said that Rohnert Park's General Plan update is almost done. However, the City needs to revisit the General Plan, in light of recent jurisdictional control changes in west Rohnert Park. The timing may work well with the Bike/Ped Master Plan update, which can further inform the General Plan before adoption. Chair Gutierrez said that the Press Democrat commended Rohnert Park for providing additional housing and high density. He asked how the General Plan considers bike and pedestrian facilities to support housing and density. Ms. Tacata responded that the circulation element of the General Plan addresses that.

Ms. Weaver said that she has been to several of the CAT Plan consultant's presentations already and offered some observations and advice. She said that some of the consulting staff live in Sonoma County and because of this, she suggested that the consultants be taken on bike rides to experience the network first-hand. She also highly advises more robust public engagement than she's seen in other recent local plan updates. Ms. Weaver also mentioned that the Bike Coalition was pushing for routes in between the various municipalities (such as between Rohnert Park, Cotati, Sebastopol, etc) to be considered in the active transportation plans.

There was discussion about transit apps to provide users a way to link their trips such as on the SMART train, bus lines, etc. There was also discussion about the Hwy. 101 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing; its proposed Copeland Creek location; and design challenges for an undercrossing; and bridge design alternatives that minimized redwood tree removal.

Ms. Tacata gave a handout of draft slides for the October 12th joint BPAC/Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Tacata said the BPAC had already done some preliminary work that would inform Rohnert Park Bike/Ped Plan update, including reviewing the old project list and conducting bike path audits. Chair Gutierrez noted that 5 bike path audit segments were not completed, and he wants to discuss that. He added that during the audits he noticed paths not reflected on maps but were obviously used. Ms. Weaver said that these are called "desire lines".

Ms. Johnson commented that at last month's CBPAC meeting, she was able to make the Vision Statement more inclusive by adding language to acknowledge users who are unable to "walk" or "bike"; thus, the term "rolling" was added. She commented that it's always important to show up for your community.

Chair Gutierrez asked about the "Task 5- Funding" slide and how escalating project costs over time are accounted for in funding recommendations. He was concerned about Downtown Rohnert Park and the facilities to support it; if not built soon, the costs will rise prohibitively. Ms. Tacata responded that project costs in plans are generally a point-in-time. Ideally the plan is updated, project estimates would be recalculated. She also noted that cost escalation over time is routinely considered as capital improvements program budgets are developed.

Vice Chair Ogren mentioned they would not be able to attend the 10/12 special meeting, and asked about submitting public comments prior. Ms. Tacata responded that comments could be submit before the meeting; a recording of the meeting is also available online afterwards.

7. Questions for Public Safety Representative

Ms. Cotter called attention to the list of questions that the BPAC had worked on over the past several meetings to drive conversation with a representative from Public Safety. Chair Gutierrez

asked the BPAC if they agreed with the list of questions presented so staff could forward to Public Safety.

Vice Chair Ogren asked if under the “complaints” question, if it should be made specific to bicycles and pedestrians.

Mr. Keith mentioned that Chief Tim Mattos, Director of Public Safety would be giving a presentation at the 9/26/23 City Council meeting on scooter safety and enforcement. He was wondering if the Public Safety representative would also be able to speak to the scooter issue, as a follow-up to Chief Mattos’ presentation to the Council. Mr. Hensel asked if a printed version of scooter presentation was available.

Chair Gutierrez mentioned that his neighbor’s bike was stolen, and he wondered if there was any Public Safety involvement in bike theft response and recovery or even databases of bike theft used at the wider network level. Ms. Weaver said that she has participated in a bike theft sting with the City of Santa Rosa. A database does exist of registered bikes that is used to return bikes to their owners. Bike owners can get a sticker for their bikes and be in the database. There is also a local Facebook group for people who need help finding stolen bikes. Mr. Hensel said that a few years ago, the Rohnert Park Public Safety Department had a database. Vice Chair Ogren said that someone she knew asked about such a database. He asked to add this discussion about a database to the question about bike theft.

Chair Guterrez asked BPAC members if they felt confident with the questions moving forward. BPAC members responded yes. Chair Gutierrez commented that that presentation should be scheduled as soon as a Public Safety representative is available.

8. New Matters for Future Consideration and Review of Future Agenda Items List

BPAC members reviewed the list of future agenda items.

Vice Chair Ogren asked for a follow-up on the repaving of the Hinebaugh Creek Trail, the crossing of Snyder Lane between the segments of the Hinebaugh Creek Trail, and whether there was still funding for the project.

Chair Gutierrez wanted to add a topic about bike parking at Sunrise Park. He said there is a lot of activity at that park with pickleball. Car parking there is already limited, and the existing bicycle parking is sparse and farther from the active areas. Vice Chair Ogren commented that bike parking would benefit the project since they are also adding to the playground. The park is only ½ mile from K Section, so more of those users might ride their bikes.

Vice Chair Ogren noted that the bike path audits still needed to be addressed. Chair Gutierrez responded that the list of paths, etc., should be brought back again at the October meeting.

Vice Chair Ogren mentioned the Parks and Paths map discussed at a previous meeting, and that BPAC should coordinate with Jim Barrios, the Parks and Recreation commission liaison. Ms. Cotter briefly provided background on the BPAC discussions on this topic. Ms. Johnson noted that a map like that could be helpful in the form of an app. Ms. Weaver mentioned that she created her own map of part of a bike valet event. Ms. Tacata noted that this topic could be agendaized for a future meeting, with or without Jim’s participation. Vice Chair Ogren responded that Jim Barrios should be present for the meeting. If Parks and Recreation has some sort of budget to assist with this, Mr. Barrios could help coordinate. Ms. Tacata responded that staff will prepare an item to shape this discussion. Chair Gutierrez commented that Santa Rosa hosted a “Tour de Creeks” and had a great map, and asked why the City doesn’t currently have one.

Ms. Tacata responded that an event like that and its materials was likely funded through their stormwater budget. Chair Gutierrez asked if Rohnert Park's stormwater budget could possibly fund that; Ms. Tacata responded that the City's stormwater program runs lean and does not have the dedicated funding source that Santa Rosa's program does.

Ms. Johnson also commented that Sonoma State University would be revamping their transportation plan, so keep your ears open.

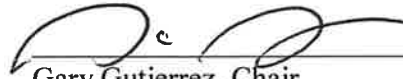
Mr. Keith commented that the section of Country Club between Snyder and Southwest always has a lot of trash, and inquired whether or not that section had street sweepers. Ms. Tacata responded that the next time he or other BPAC members see that to give us a call or to report it in GovRequest, as the City does pay Recology for street cleaning, and it needs to be done.

9. Adjournment

Chair Gutierrez moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Johnson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.



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



Gary Gutierrez, Chair
Rohnert Park Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Committee