



**Final**

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

5:30 PM, Monday, June, 26, 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), Jim Barrios (Parks and Recreation Commissioner), Julian De Anda (Senior Engineer, City of Rohnert Park); Emily Shartin (Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition)

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Gary Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

**2. Introductions**

Chair Gutierrez commenced self-introductions.

**3. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Gutierrez read the Land Acknowledgement as shown on the BPAC Meeting Agenda.

**4. Public Comments**

Ms. Shartin encouraged BPAC members to attend the County BPAC meeting, which is hosted every other month on the last Tuesday at 1:30pm. Every area is allowed a citizen representative, and they are not required to participate in person so they can participate via Zoom. The County BPAC is working on the County wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, so now is a good time to have as many citizens on the board, as it is an opportunity for input and updates. Ms. Cotter said she would send out the information to BPAC members. Mx. Ogren asked how old the current County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is. Ms. Shartin responded that the current plan is approximately 10+ years old. Ideally, every municipality will have its own bicycle and pedestrian master plan.

**5. Consideration of Approval of Minutes for 5/22/2023 meeting**

Mr. Keith requested a correction to have a moment noted in the minutes regarding the usage of Google Maps and Camino Colegio, Mx. Ogren wanted it noted that Mr. Sampietro would look into the feasibility of the bicycle and pedestrian map.

Meeting minutes are approved with corrections: 4 ayes, 1 abstention (Ms. Johnson).

**6. Trail to Crane Canyon Presentation by Project Engineer**

Mr. De Anda presented on his project, the Copeland Creek Trail to Crane Creek Regional Park. The trail will extend the Copeland Creek Trail from SSU to Crane Creek Regional Park. This will consist of approximately 7500 feet of new Class 1 trail, three new bridges (one 90 ft. span bridge, and two smaller 14 ft bridges), use of the existing tank access road (approximately 2600 feet), new culvert crossings, new fencing, and rock wall protection, which will require the removal of some of the existing rock wall. Additionally, new traffic signals a Laurel Dr., and Petaluma Hill Rd., and a SSU

Trail Link will be constructed. Mr. De Anda explained the project history – the City acquired acres of land in 2016, and planned for water tanks to be constructed. The trail project was created, and the City applied for County grant funding in 2020. Mr. De Anda noted that this is a very collaborative project, working with SSU, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, as well as Sonoma County Parks. The City achieved CEQA compliance in 2020, these are mitigation measures that require the City to comply with surveys for plants, owls, salamanders, etc. The trail design was completed in 2022 by consulting firm BRCE. Construction is estimated to begin this fall, the City is getting ready to put the project out for bid. The cost of this project is estimated at \$2.6 million dollars. Mr. De Anda explained the project benefits:

- Providing outdoor recreational experiences to the Community with the Eastward expansion to the Crane Creek Regional Park.
- Encourage the use and appreciation for park resources;
- Improve non-vehicle access to Crane Creek Regional Park;
- Broaden natural, cultural, and historical understanding of Sonoma County Area. This will be accomplished by placing signs, some of which will be associated with the Tribe, and some will be related to the County.

Mr. De Anda's presentation included multiple images highlighting where the trail will be located – just east of SSU on the 128 acres of acquired land. Mr. De Anda noted that after construction of the trail is complete, the city will pass all ownership and maintenance responsibilities to Sonoma County Regional Parks.

Mr. De Anda explained the trail extension, the total length of which is approximately 5 miles. The width of the trail is approximately 8ft wide. Mr. De Anda explained the process involved in finding a sufficient link through SSU. The traffic signal at Laurel Dr. and Petaluma Hill Rd will be positioned so that pedestrians can safely and easily cross Petaluma Hill Rd from SSU. Mr. De Anda presented a few slides focused on the trail alignment with City property. The trail will start near the existing water tank access road for tanks 8 and 9 (tank 9 is still in design). Mr. De Anda said that they will not be constructing a parking lot, parking will have to be found at SSU. Mr. De Anda also went into depth on the trail design. The trail is designed as a Class 1 trail and has been designed per the U.S. Access Board Accessibility Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas – meaning, that depending on the slope of the trail, the trail can only go so long before a rest area needs to be available. Mr. De Anda also provided information on the material the trail will be constructed of, they currently have three different options: Park Tread, Terra Pave, and Aggregate Surface. The decision on which material to use will be made depending on the bids received. After Mr. De Anda gave his presentation, BPAC members were free to ask questions.

Ms. Johnson asked where the trail dropped those utilizing it. Mr. De Anda responded that the trail connected to Crane Creek Regional Park, so it ended there. Ms. Johnson responded that there are sections of Crane Creek Regional Park which are not necessarily wheelchair accessible. Mr. De Anda that any improvements to the regional park would be taken on by Sonoma County Regional Parks. Mr. Gutierrez noted that since there are several layers to this project: Sonoma County Regional Parks, SSU, and the city, each layer has distinct questions. Mr. Gutierrez noted that the BPAC was lucky to have Mr. Hensel, given his employment with SSU. Mr. Hensel noted that Sonoma County Regional Parks might have plans for improvements (more wheelchair accessibility, benches, etc) after construction is completed. Mr. Hensel asked about the traffic signal on Laurel Dr. – it is a pedestrian only signal since Laurel Dr. is one way only into SSU but not out of SSU currently. Mr. De Anda responded that the signal is going to have traffic heads, the idea is not to expand, and they

are not going to make Laurel Dr., accessible both ways. Mr. De Anda noted that this signal is a county encroachment, the county wanted additional traffic analysis, so he will follow up with Mr. Sampietro later. Mr. Hensel asked if this signal was pedestrian activated, and asked about additional safety measures since motorists drive very fast on that stretch of road. Mr. De Anda that the traffic signal was still in design and that both City and County staff were working on improvement plans. Mr. Hensel also noted that the proposed route through SSU was not very direct, there is a dirt road utility workers utilize that was more direct and could be used. Mr. De Anda responded that they had looked at that route, but because there are visualization problems in that it was classified as a safety issue. Mr. Keith commented that people probably won't follow the designated route and will probably use the easier route via the utility access road. Mr. De Anda responded that would be up to the individual, but that a safer option would be available with signage. Mx. Ogren commented that utilizing this route would require cyclists to bike below the parking lot. Mr. De Anda responded that staff on all sides had looked at alternative campus options and had exhausted all options available to them since SSU is utilizing existing infrastructure and will not be repaving. Mx. Ogren said they thought it would have been paved – Mr. De Anda responded that it is a requirement from Ag and Open Space for the grant funding received. Mr. Hensel asked Mr. De Anda when Tank 9 would be constructed, Mr. De Anda responded that he didn't have exact dates, but noted that there would be plenty of room for staging, so hopefully it would be able to start construction easily. Mr. Hensel asked about the rock wall and noted that it had been there for a very long period – Mr. De Anda responded that they would take down the wall and rebuild it. Mx. Ogren asked if the water access road would be built on. Mr. De Anda that the water access road would be left alone, as it'll be used for access to two water tanks, and a future project for a storm shed. Mr. Keith commented that this was beyond Rohnert Park's urban growth boundary. Mr. De Anda noted that this project expands the regional park. Mx. Ogren commented that hopefully Regional Parks would fix the connection and inquired about cattle. Mr. De Anda responded that a fence would be constructed to close it off from cattle, per the agreement with County Regional Parks. Ms. Johnson noted that if they put in an equestrian trail, it might be further developed. Mr. Gutierrez asked about the noted rest zones in Mr. De Anda's presentation – would they be inputting benches, trash cans, etc. Mr. De Anda replied that those specs were not in the project. Mr. Gutierrez further inquired about ADA access. Mr. De Anda clarified that the terrain would be firm and stable, and that the project followed ADA standards for trails with fidelity. Ms. Johnson responded that the media looked like it had rock on top, which wouldn't make it wheelchair accessible. Mr. De Anda and Ms. Cotter pulled up the website for the paving options and pointed out that once it is finished, the media is relatively smooth and accessible. Mx. Ogren asked about how long lasting this pavement option was if it was better than asphalt. Mr. De Anda responded that everything needs maintenance, he wasn't sure about the specs on how long lasting these options were. Mx. Ogren queried who would maintain the trail – Mr. De Anda responded that Regional Parks would maintain the entire trail, even in the City sections. Mr. Gutierrez drew a parallel to Spring Lake, where visitors must pay for parking – SSU also requires that visitors pay for parking and expressed his concern at people parking on the side of the road. Mr. Hensel responded that there are no parking signs on either side. Mr. De Anda suggested that there might have to be some additional enforcement to make sure people don't park on the side of the road. Ms. Cotter pulled up Google Maps of the area and confirmed that there are no parking signs on either side of the road. Mr. Gutierrez also asked about Taylor Mountain Park – would there be a path constructed between Taylor Mountain and Crane Creek Regional Park. Mr. De Anda noted that that could be a possibility in the County Parks Master Plan. BPAC members thanked Mr. De Anda for his very informative presentation, and Mr. Gutierrez asked Mr. De Anda about a potential follow-up visit. Mr. De Anda responded that September would be idea, because bids for construction will have been accepted.

**7. Questions for Public Safety Representative**


Ms. Cotter presented the questions that had been sent in so far, BPAC members started discussing different questions. All BPAC members threw out different questions, Ms. Cotter responded that she would synthesize the questions they threw out and present it as a follow-up item at the next BPAC meeting.

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

BPAC members reviewed the list, and wanted to prioritize bicycle parking inventory. Mr. Hensel noted that this had been done in previous years, Ms. Cotter responded that she would look through the meeting minutes and report out at the next meeting, in addition to synthesizing the questions for Public Safety.

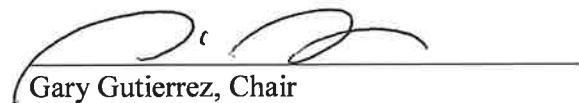
**9. Adjournment**

Mr. Gutierrez moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Johnson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.



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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