



**FINAL**

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

5:30 PM, Monday, December 18, 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); Jim Barrios (BPAC Liaison, Rohnert Park Parks & Recreation Commission); Eris Weaver (Executive Director, 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**

Jan Ogren, BPAC Member, read the Land Acknowledgement as shown on the Meeting Agenda.

**4. Public Comments**

Eris Weaver, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition (“Bike Coalition”) Executive Director, said that she was looking forward to several events in 2024, including:

- A Bike Advocacy Summit, the first of which was in 2023. She is looking forward to a bigger event and collaborating with the Napa and Marin bike coalitions.
- A public officials’ bike ride in the fall, incorporating the SMART line within Sonoma County. She wants to show gaps in the system and discuss plans for improvements.
- A women’s bike ride. Mx. Ogren asked if the ride would be different from the Biker Chicks rides; Ms. Weaver said that it would be planned in collaboration with the Santa Rosa Cycling Club as well as the Biker Chicks.

Chair Gutierrez mentioned the Press Democrat article on the Taco Tuesday Bike Rides and Bikeable Santa Rosa. Ms. Weaver said there are more groups doing community rides, such as Bike Petaluma, Bike Sebastopol, Move! Healdsburg, and in the Rohnert Park area, Roxane Leiva’s group. The Bike Coalition wants to help these groups and grow the movement.

**5. Election of Officers**

Eydie Tacata, staff to the BPAC, explained the election procedure.

Nominations were taken from the floor for Chair. Shirley Johnson, BPAC Member nominated Jan Ogren for Chair; Tim Hensel, BPAC Member, seconded the nomination. Mx. Ogren agreed to the nomination. Mx. Ogren was voted in as BPAC Chair by a unanimous vote of 5-0-0-0.

Nominations were taken from the floor for Vice Chair. Ms. Johnson nominated Steve Keith, BPAC Member, for Vice Chair; Mx. Ogren seconded the nomination. Mr. Keith agreed to the nomination. Mr. Keith was voted in as BPAC Vice Chair by a unanimous vote of 5-0-0-0.

Ms. Tacata explained that the new officers' roles would start at the next BPAC meeting.

**6. Consideration of Approval of Minutes for 11/27/2023 meeting**

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes; Chair Gutierrez seconded. The meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of 5-0-0-0.

**7. Parks and Paths Map**

Mr. Jim Barrios, Parks & Recreation Commissioner and BPAC Liaison, explained the origins of the "Parks and Paths Map" topic. Mr. Barrios said he was in a BPAC meeting when there was a discussion about the need for a bike map and the Santa Rosa "Tour de Creeks" map was an example. He wondered how to fund the creation of a Rohnert Park's paths and parks map, and later discussed with then Parks & Recreation Commission Chair, Mike Thompson, how to bring the topic to the Parks & Recreation Commission ("Commission").

Mr. Barrios asked the BPAC for a formal request to the Commission to explore ways to develop a parks and paths map, consider various formats (e.g. paper, a smartphone app, QR codes, etc.), and funding sources. He would use this request to get the topic on the Commission agenda.

Ms. Tacata said that City is working on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update and this project could be included in that Plan. Also, if the Commission discusses this topic at a meeting and they are interested in the City pursuing the project, they could ask City staff for an analysis on how such a project would get done (i.e. what City department, how to get into the City budget, with what funds).

Chair Gutierrez asked if this type of request is allowed within the bylaws of the BPAC or Commission. He wanted to be mindful of setting a precedent of these requests.

There was more discussion seeking to clarify what Mr. Barrios was looking for. Mr. Barrios said the request just needed to be one or two sentences. Chair Gutierrez suggested the request could simply be captured in the BPAC minutes instead. Mr. Keith suggested that a BPAC member could also make the request during public comment at an upcoming Commission meeting.

There was further discussion about the need and benefits of a parks and paths map; residents' and visitors' use of a map; the amount of parks for the size of the city; and the presence of a park in every neighborhood. Mx. Ogren said that the maps could have information about park accessibility and location of bike racks.

Ms. Weaver shared the Bike Coalition's experience when they wanted to update their 2018 map. Many people said the map should be on a smartphone app. The Bike Coalition surveyed their constituents and found that no one would pay for an app, but they would pay for a physical (paper) map. She described an easy process of using available GIS files to create a map for the Santa Rosa creek event and hiring a cartographer to make the map more graphically pleasing. The map was printed and available as a downloadable PDF. The effort was inexpensive.

There was more discussion about the advantages of a digital map being easily updated. A drawback with an app is the need for users to have a smartphone to access the map. Paper maps are easy to carry and can be distributed at locations such as hotels, bike shops and public facilities. PDFs are easy to download and can be printed or viewed on a phone. Tim Hensel,

BPAC Member, mentioned the need to ensure website or mobile app accessibility. Ms. Weaver suggested that a map project could be phased, with a simple, quickly-produced map to start, while an app or other more complex map solution is worked on.

Chair Gutierrez asked why there was not a Rohnert Park Bike Map. Ms. Tacata explained there was a paper bike map in the 1990's, but no paper map update after that. There is only the technical bike facilities map that is part of the Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan available on the Sonoma County Transportation Authority website. The map update project is in the Rohnert Park Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan, but it has not been a City staff priority project. The BPAC members discussed prioritizing the map and capturing that in the Commission request.

Ms. Tacata suggested that a BPAC ad hoc committee could be appointed to work on the specific wording of the request to the Commission. It could be submitted to Mr. Barrios before the end of December, so that he could bring it to the January 2024 Commission meeting. Mx. Ogren and Mr. Keith were appointed to the ad hoc committee to work on this issue.

## **8. Bike Path Audits**

Chair Gutierrez reported that he completed the remaining 5 bike path audits.

Mr. Keith asked what City staff does with the information. Ms. Tacata explained the background of the Bike Path Audits. Chair Gutierrez and Mx. Ogren added while conducted the audits, they talked to people on the paths. Mx. Ogren said that having a scientific and statistics background, they initially had concerns about the data and methodology. But they saw how the audits were useful in showing the high usage of the Hinebaugh Creek Path from K Section, compared to the low usage of a path by the golf course planned for upcoming repairs. The audits seemed to help get the Hinebaugh Creek Path prioritized ahead of the other path for rehabilitation. The audits also provided qualitative data, for example, from stroller users who using the path but who said that the conditions for strollers are bad.

Ms. Tacata brought up that the BPAC previously discussed conducting more audits at a regular frequency and involving community members. Mr. Keith explained that he was thinking that getting people involved in the audits would increase their familiarity with the paths and then encourage usage. He added that the more people involved in the audits, the simpler the audit would have to be. Regarding the frequency, Mr. Keith said that he initially suggested quarterly, but thought it could be less frequent, as long as the audit is done regularly and provides meaningful comparisons.

There was additional discussion about other methods to get path usage data, such as drones, bike/ped counters, and trail cameras.

Chair Gutierrez suggested that the item be brought back in February to consider another Bike Path Audit. Ms. Tacata said that she could coordinate with Dustin De Matteo, Sustainability Manager, to come to the February 2024 meeting to discuss how to launch and conduct the next Bike Path Audit in conjunction with Earth Day, which is in April.

## **9. Project Updates**

Mr. Keith reported on the December 11, 2023 community meeting for the proposed Adrian Drive improvements. He said the attendance appeared to include 6 residents from 4 households who live on Adrian Drive and 1 resident from the surrounding neighborhood. Across the board, they were against changes of lanes of any kind, including bike lane installation. The residents said they did not see a lot of bike traffic. They were concerned that bike lanes would impede

their ability to pull out of their driveways. Mr. Keith said that he himself rode the street where the changes were proposed, and he noticed the number of large vehicles for tradespeople.

Mr. Keith said that speeding was the main concern from the residents at the meeting. He noted that seeing the opposition to bike lanes, Jason Sampietro (Assistant Engineer, City of Rohnert Park), offered a traffic calming solution of one or more temporary roundabouts at the intersections on Adrian Drive. Chief Tim Mattos (Public Safety Director) also offered to have speed monitoring trailers out and to have more enforcement in the area.

There was discussion about bicycle and pedestrian concerns on this segment of Adrian Drive. Chair Gutierrez said that when cars are parked, bikes are pushed to the middle of the road and need to watch for speeding cars coming up behind them. Mr. Keith said that to the residents, speeding is a bigger issue. He added that maybe this concern makes them blind to the presence of bicyclists and their needs. Mx. Ogren asked if there are crossing guards in the area. Mr. Keith said if there were, crosswalk guards would be provided by the school district not the City.

Ms. Weaver said that while she was not there, Emily Shartin (Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator) attended. Ms. Weaver said she had three points to make: (1) Regarding the outreach: the survey was about bike lane options, yet it was only distributed to the residents on the street and the surrounding neighborhood. The street is used by more than just those who live in the immediate vicinity, so input from those who bike on streets was not taken into consideration. (2) Residents will almost always oppose any change, especially to parking. She added that Adrian Drive is a public street that needs to serve a broad set of users and should not be just a place for residents to store privately-owned property such as cars. (3) She is disappointed that jurisdictions give in easily to a few residents. She encouraged the City to consider "what is the result you want": If it is slowing the speeds on streets, the general public does not know what works and that bike lanes can help achieve what they and the City want.

#### **10. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the members of the public on items not on the agenda.

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

There were no new matters from the BPAC.

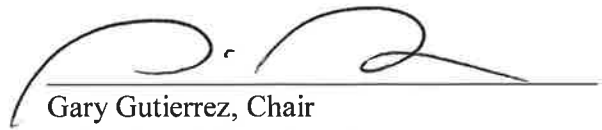
#### **12. Adjournment**

Mx. Ogren moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Johnson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.



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



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Gary Gutierrez, Chair  
Rohnert Park Bicycle and  
Pedestrian Advisory Committee