

Springfield Bicycle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Chair Ted Sunder.

Roll Call. Members Present: Mike Klemens, Tom Clark, Ted Sunder, Cynthia Thomas, Ben Long, Taylor Sutton, Michael Higgins, Loren Easter. Visitors: Bonnie Drew, TJ Heavisides, Steven Simpson-Black.

Public Comment. BAC Visitor Steven Simpson Black advised that he had been named to the City's Planning and Zoning Commission and hoped to promote policies for bike-friendly infrastructure such as bike parking.

Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes. The December minutes were approved.

Bike Park. Loren Easter reiterated the need to market and highlight all of Springfield's bicycle facilities.

Bike Facility Enhancements. Traffic Engineer TJ Heavisides said that the City continued to work on projects with bicycle facilities such as Koke Mill from Old Jack to Washington, while looking for gaps where facilities were needed. Along these lines, Loren Easter noted a need for a downtown – UIS connector other than 2nd. St., while Michael Higgins noted that IDOT is considering a side path for MacArthur that would address the lack of a north-south connector on Springfield's near west side. Ben Long suggested that we promote our trails through a public awareness campaign on highway overpasses. Steven Simpson Black pointed to use of such "bridge wraps" by Madison County Trails. Loren notes the need for such a campaign to have a consistent theme.

Bike Tourism. No report. Steven noted a new way of conceptualizing bike shares and scooters as part of shared micromobility, a concept being promoting federally. Ben Long said that it can be a "last mile" solution.

Adult Education. Mike talked about the public outreach idea he had emailed to members for consideration, including putting out a monthly new summary from the SBAC via the City's media channels. He advised that SSCRPC plans to hold Curb Your Car Week this May after cancelling the event in 2020 due to COVID.

Bicycle Youth Education. Mike Klemens says he will contact District 186 about doing a small event at Ridgely, possibly on Bike to School day (May 5), to keep the ball rolling while the District addresses the pandemic.

Bike Club Involvement. Ted Sunder reported that the bike club continues to work on ways to promote cycling through community events such as a table at the April 17 Earth Awareness Fair co-located with SBAC.

Old Business. Ted said the bike club is working with the Park District on putting a bench with a plaque on a bike trail to recognize Bill Donels, after raising the funds needed to do so. Taylor Sutton is working with Ben Long and others to plan a program of bike counts by volunteers. Details were presented about this process.

New Business. Tom Clark noted a need to begin planning for the BFC renewal application next February.

Adjournment. It was agreed that meetings may run long as needed. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 12 at 4:30 PM by Zoom, unless members agree to an in-person meeting.

Submitted by Tom Clark, Secretary