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CITY OF SANTA FÉ
BICYCLE & TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 17, 2016

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Next BTAC Meeting	March 16, 2016	

MINUTES OF THE
BICYCLE AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 17, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

One member was present at 5:30 p.m.

A meeting of the City of Santa Fe Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee was called to order by Councilor Patti Bushee, Chair, at approximately 5:30 p.m., on the above date, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Patti Bushee, Chair
Frank Herdman, Vice Chair
Joseph Abbatacola
Paul Cooley
James Ronald Pacheco
Shelley Robinson [arriving later]

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Gretchen Grogan [excused]
Tomás Rivera [excused]
(One Vacancy)

OTHERS PARTICIPATING:
Melissa McDonald, Staff Liaison
Leroy Pacheco, City engineer
Bob Siqueiros
Carol Branch, Santa Fe County Trails Volunteer Coordinator
Tim Rogers, SFCT
Carl Boaz, Stenographer

There was a quorum of the membership in attendance for the conducting of official business.

NOTE: All items in the Committee packets for all agenda items are incorporated herewith to these minutes by reference. The original Committee packet is on file in the Public Works Department.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Herdman moved to approve the agenda as published. Member Pacheco seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 20, 2016

Member Herdman moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2016 as presented. Member Pacheco seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Barbara Fix thanked Councilor Bushee on this her last meeting for the wonderful trail system we have. It has taken a lot of time an effort. She wished Councilor Bushee good luck.

Mr. Pat Brown, Fat Tire Society Board and past president, said Chair Bushee has been very influential in helping us get jobs done and has been a good advocate for the Silver designation and working toward Gold. "Our club wants to thank you for that."

Ms. Margaret Alexander said without Councilor Bushee we would not have La Tierra Trails. It is incredible. And the trail Alliance of Santa Fé and Councilor Bushee were absolutely instrumental for the agreement. We are working on funding for this year. Thank you so much.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

a. Santa Fe Conservation Trust Report (Tim Rogers)

Mr. Rogers reported for SFCT. He thanked Chair Bushee for her service and all members of BTAC including some in the audience. He has been coming since BTAC started and with other advocates like Gail Ryba, over the years, with MPO as a consultant and now with SFCT. "Thank you for creating BTAC and the funding we have been working with. Thanks for your support of Bike Master Plan and the agreement with SFCT. It is due to expire at the end of June and we've been in touch with City Staff. It was funded through a CIP Bond and the City is trying to get away from that for operational activities. I have had good talks with Parks and Rec. Rob Carter and Richard Thompson. They are very supportive of this partnership."

Mr. Rogers and invited her to more community cruises.

Member Robinson arrived at 5:56.

Mr. Rogers said there is lots of need on the motocross track. Hopefully we will work with the Parks Department and David Chapman, grants coordinator. He also talked with Mr. Pacheco and Ms. McDonald for the PNM grant and will let BTAC know how they go.

In planning and coordination, he went to the meeting on the Acequia Trail. The City is developing a lot of great projects out of the Bike Master Plan. Always there are bumps and hiccups and one on Acequia Trail at Otowi and Calle de Chelly where the association is working to cut off access there. City Staff is working on it with their HOA. It is not city-owned. Someone needs to look at the original subdivision approval regarding pedestrian access. Many people attended the meeting and he was worried about it but a majority of attendees supported it. Member Abbatacola testified about what good it provides but the HOA put up a no trespassing sign which has already been vandalized. That is something to keep an eye on it.

Yesterday, the RTD Mountain Trail bus line had information to provide at a stakeholder meeting. The numbers were very low before the ski season and really peaked during the winter break. They are getting a lot of weekend service and they are looking at their options - maybe weekend only. The bike on bus issue came up many times. A Bike Santa Fé representative was there. Hotels and Director of Tourism were there also. There were only two people who opposed and they both live in Tesuque and work for the Forest Service and espoused their policy. They gave a permit to operate the bus and a condition was no bikes. It is something hard to defend. We are trying to promote Dale Ball Trails and is an easier place for tourists to ride the bus. It isn't that easy on Windsor Trail. So we need to really promote the drive to Dale Ball Trail.

Chair Bushee asked if that wasn't a conflict of interest for the Forest Service employees.

Mr. Rogers agreed. It is arbitrary and capricious and coming from individuals who have something at stake. He would appreciate help. The next public meeting is in April. Miles Standish of Santa Fe Forest Service was there at the meeting. He is a recreation planner and supports bikes on the forest trails. He hoped it could be resolved before the summer period. (July and August). He expressed hope that it could be changed. Their plan is still to do a study. It could all be academic. It is a poorly informed or motivated thing. He would like to see the decision reversed. They should study having bikes on the bus and the offer of education to users while on the bus - a video about proper behavior.

Chair Bushee asked about anyone from the congressional delegation.

Mr. Rogers said they are in an effort to keep doing this next year. They are applying for federal funding and he asked them if the prohibition of bikes harms their federal funding. They said the NCRTD had to take off the bike racks to do this route. Nationwide, there is support for multi-modal. Also a man from Hyde Park State Park and people who camp out at the park were in support. Those with giant RVs could take their bike on it.

Mr. Rogers mentioned upcoming events. This Sunday 2/21, is a new nature talk at Lensic by Paul Louv with scholarships to teachers. 2/26 is the stakeholder meeting of GUTS. We have a county resolution going through the steps and looking at specific planning areas and connections to the areas. It is getting us to very productive conversations. Rancho Viejo has signed the agreement. With Carol Branch (County Volunteer Coordinator) we will build a trail from the Spur Trail to SFCC hopefully this Spring.

Mr. Pacheco will talk about the specific trail projects. He had copies of his email where he elaborated on the things going on. He was just trying to make sure on the projects that they are not getting unprofessional facilities.

Carol Branch gave an update on the new trailhead signs for Dale Ball Trails. Chair Bushee and Member Pacheco came to their first sign event. They plan to have them all erected for celebration on National Trails day on June 3rd. La Piedra and Little Tesuque were added later and she didn't have any junction numbers so she decided to add letters so it is easier to find injured users. We had to get approvals form Forest Service, County, City, and SFCT. She shared pictures.

Member Pacheco said it is great the City and County can work together on things like this.

Ms. Branch said they are getting brand new junction signs for all Dale Ball Trails. She hoped the members would all be volunteers on the trails.

Chair Bushee said pjbushee@comcast.net is her email.

7. INFORMATION, DISCUSSION & ACTION

a. Stop as Yield Ordinance update (staff, MPO)

Ms. McDonald said the crash data is not ready but will be for the March meeting so MPO will bring that back then. She hoped to get it for this meeting but they will get it for next month.

b. City urban trails project update (Leroy Pacheco, staff)

Mr. Pacheco presented a large handout. He has spent 19 years working with Chair Bushee. This spreadsheet is only the trails the river shed group is working on. It is over a million dollars' worth of work. He quickly listed the trails included. The PSA expires June 30 and Margaret Alexander has been working top down on it. It is of amazing value to the City. The spreadsheet shows the original and amended budgets. The one to La Cieneguilla is to be built by On-Call. There is also a wayside signage along Otowi. The third is two bridges and dealing with one abutment. He might need to ask for money for that. For the trail from Maclovia, - over 100 people attended the ENN. He felt it went very well. Many of them were from the Alegre subdivision. They are not really changing anything but just changing an existing use. He has tried to work with that HOA on concerns and make it a real easement. The HOA owns the easement and the City needs to either buy it or acquire an easement. Rufina to South Meadows has an ENN on February 23 at the Southside Library. He is getting lots of phone calls from residents and looking forward to working with that neighborhood.

The trail at Santa Fé Place Mall is open for bids. The underpass is now at $3.1 million and the bidding date is now in purchasing for late February or early March.

The Rail Runner Trail between Alta Vista and Pen Road has some ROW issues. A license agreement from Santa Fe Public Schools is making the rounds. Pen Road is actually on the Railrunner ROW so he is working on that and also the crossing of Alta Vista. The design has been challenging, working with NMDOT but we are making our way. The wayfinding was ratified by BTAC a year ago and the one along Camino Carlos Rey is now getting priced but the money was used for the design.

Tierra Contenta Buffalo Grass to South Meadows has about 5-6 private properties where ROW is being worked on.

Cañada Rincon had over 80 people attending at Zocalo. BTAC had an alignment action item. We might be bringing back an alternate in a future meeting.

Member Robinson said the neighbors want us to consider the open side on the west of Reserve. They understand the City has a right on the east but they want us to consider using the west instead.

Mr. Pacheco said the MRC trail public meeting is this evening. The Federal match of $150,000 is for going underneath the relief route toward Diablo Canyon. We will pay the match next year. It is at the Nancy Rodriguez Library as we speak.

He said the Flow Trail was completed as part of the GO Bond.

Chair Bushee asked what amount might be needed for the Acequia Trail.

Mr. Pacheco said there might be remaining bond money left. A reallocation hopefully would be available. $200,000 should get both bridges built. He will soon know what the amount is.

Chair Bushee asked if it was the same with redesign of Cañada Rincon.

Mr. Pacheco didn't know how the money was determined but $80,000 is for Otowi/Maclovia and is very low. It is for drainage, signage, etc.

Chair Bushee asked if trails money is still available.

Mr. Pacheco thought there is about $150-200,000 remaining.

In response to Member Robinson, Mr. Pacheco said the Acequia Trail design is 100% complete and construction will soon be advertised. A large part to be built this calendar year.

8. BTAC SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

a. On-Road - Joe Abbatacola

Member Abbatacola was asked to take this subcommittee over. He met with Paul Cooley and they went out in the field and looked at on-road improvements including green lanes and brain-stormed how

they want to work with the Committee this year and Member Cooley put together a great list of priorities to talk about. They also met with Member Grogan as she passes the baton to us. We will meet with John Romero and Keith Wilson in early March so things are plugging along and he is grateful for Member Cooley's help and possibly having involvement from the community.

b. Off-Road - Ron Pacheco

Member Pacheco said they haven't met yet.

d. Going for the Gold -Bike Education and Outreach - Gretchen Grogan

Member Robinson said it is two of us at this point and the task is as great as BTAC's. What she read in that is that there is a complete communication breakdown so it is huge. It is more than just a committee. When Member Grogan is back they hopefully will have the community involved.

Ms. McDonald said Bob Siqueiros is also interested in working with the subcommittee.

Member Abbatacola asked what the application deadline is.

Ms. McDonald said they have some time.

e. La Tierra Master Plan La Tierra Trails - Frank Herdman

Member Herdman said they are waiting on the tally of money left over and working on the connection with golf carts at the underpass. Maybe there is some way to have Cañada Rincon be a missing link with it. Then that committee could be dissolved.

Chair Bushee believed those funds are from 2008.

Mr. Pacheco said he did apply for a federal grant and didn't get it but they went out and looked at some possibilities for getting it further south. It would be simple at the PNM site. It would make a nice small trailhead. It would increase safety and eliminate the frequent dumping that goes on there. It might be something the committee could get involved in.

Member Herdman said mountain biking on Los Montoyas is not safe. Having that last little link there would take care of it. A volunteer team could probably do it in a weekend with a sustainable route.

9. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS – Project updates

Ms. McDonald said she included the last page of a report - a sample from the River Commission. She felt that as they move forward it would be beneficial to use something like that. It is a matrix she uses

for the River Commission and also used with Water Conservation. She briefly explained how it was arranged.
She wanted to present it so BTAC could see the various options for those who want information without reading all of the minutes. So it is something to think about.

Member Abbatacola agreed to do a test run for his committee for the next meeting. The format helps the Council understand it.

Ms. McDonald said regarding bike parking and the bike rental issue of how to make it equitable, she spoke with Chris Sanchez at Community Services. He suggested we meet with the Youth Task Force for suggestions on the west side. There is a lot of opportunity for revision on Southside trails to see if BTAC is interested.

10. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Bushee said, "I love all of you. Some of us have been here from the start. Incredible. I haven't served on a committee so positive and proactive as this one. I'm proud and pleased to have been a part of all we have achieved. Thank you all and I hope you get a great new chair. There are plenty of things to consider. I know that the infrastructure we got has fortified our economy and a way to keep growing our economy. The County is big on it also. This is a way to bring in a whole new segment of Santa Fé and much more entrepreneurial. Going for the Gold is significant."

She also asked to please clean off the spray on the bike lanes.

Member Cooley agreed about the bike lanes. He was at Second Street in the Railyard watching bike after bike on the trail there. It has made a very positive difference.

Member Pacheco said it was 22 years ago that he started working with Chair Bushee on COMMunity days. It has been a great run. The bike lanes, sharrows, Siler Road, etc. "I will miss you on the committee and all the city staff and Mr. Rogers's work. You will be missed and I hope you will let us call you for advice along the way. You have done a lot - so much more of your legacy. You didn't care if it was popular or not but went with what you thought was best."

Member Herdman said, "I've had privilege to serve since the inception of BTAC and it wouldn't be where it is today without Patti's leadership, commitment and advice. I hope she will continue to be part of the bicycling community and hope you will speak up to scream about the trails. She has been my councilor for ten years and we will all miss you."

Member Abbatacola said, "I'm also here because of Chair Bushee. You will be greatly missed and it would take a hundred of you to fill your shoes. You have been so nice. It would be great to name a trail after you some day. I'm so grateful to see you work and see how your mind works. All of the history will be lost with your departure. Thanks for everything done. We do meet on the 3rd Wednesday and have citizen communication. We wish you all the best and can still see you from time to time."

Member Robinson said, "You are stunning - the work you have done; the commitment and passion is stunning. I think BTAC started in 2004 and I got on at 2006. That is a long tie and has been a wonderful ride and hope the one who tries to fill your shoes would be willing to have you educate them. Whoever that is - you have so much knowledge and wisdom for them."

"We have a little gift for you. We will sign a card later. This is from all of us. Thank you so much.

Chair Bushee opened the gift and held up a hang-up bike gear with inlaid center for her window. Very beautiful. She said, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve with you. It has been sheer joy."

Next Meeting Date: March 16, 2016

11. ADJOURNMENT

The BTAC meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Approved by:

Patti J. Bushee, Chair

Submitted by:

Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.