

# **Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

## **MINUTES**

**March 18, 2013, 4:30 PM**

**Members Present: Chair Eric Weis, Jef Nickerson, Matthew Moritz, Jenn Steinfeld, Jenna Yu**

**Staff: David Everett, Sheila Dormody**

**Guests: Amanda Ball, Serve Rhode Island**

**1/ Amanda Ball, Serve Rhode Island – Dig Out RI:**

**Ms. Ball gave an overview of Dig Out RI, a volunteer snow-clearing effort initiated in response to the blizzard and expected to take further shape in the future. The program was essentially “made up on the spot” in coordination with United Way 21: names, phone numbers and emails were communicated via that system. She said a survey component of the effort was underway, addressing both volunteers and residents to get a better understanding of how volunteer shifts can be best implemented. Serve Rhode Island would like to organize a group of volunteers in advance of future storms. Meeting attendee Margherita Pryor suggested the need to coordinate with the City Department of Public Works. Both David Everett and Sheila Dormody said that coordination should probably start with the Providence Emergency Management Agency, which runs the snow removal program.**

**2/ Jenna Yu – Bike Fest RI; Bike Valet:**

**In collaboration with the Met School and RI Bicycle Coalition, Recycle-A-Bike will be holding Bike Fest RI at the Met School campus on May 11 from 10:00 to 4:00. Jenna also said that volunteers are needed to watch bikes for the bike valet service they are continuing at events this year. A bike stand was received from the Providence Foundation. This discussion segued into discussion of “green events guidelines” being worked into event permitting by the City’s Department of Art, Culture and Tourism. Bike valet could be coordinated with this and the intention is to charge the vendor/event sponsor rather than individuals for the bike valet service.**

**3/ Eric Weis, representing East Coast Greenway:**

**Reported that an ECG routing workshop had been held the previous Monday and that the significant change was shifting the route from the Cranston Bikepath to Wickenden Street. Eric also talked about the ASSHTO conference to be held in Providence in May and said he hoped to have gotten approval of the route changes by then.**

**4/ Matt Moritz - pedestrian and bike crossing at Crawford Street Bridge and South Water Street:**

**There was a discussion about the indirect path, obstacles and uneven grade at this location. Matt said he would visit the site, take photographs and write “bullets” for a potential solution.**

**5/ Lisa Aurecchia - Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council - Promenade Bike Path Proposal:**

**A separated bike path along Promenade and/or Kinsley Street(s) was proposed by the WRWC in conjunction with the reconstruction of the Dean Street Bridge. Ms. Aurecchia explained that there were City Department of Public Works issues with a particular “pinch point” where the road narrows and with a proposed crossing at Promenade and Dean. This has caused DPW to express its disapproval of the preferred plan, which calls for a 2-way path on Promenade Street. Solutions were discussed including making promenade Street one way through the “pinch point” stretch and installing a “bike light” crossing signal at Promenade and Dean. BPAC will write a letter in support of the proposed bike path plan, emphasizing the importance of the connections it would provide between Olneyville/Valley and downtown, as well as the importance of the Promenade area as a potential destination.**

#### **6/ Fountain Street:**

**The commission discussed the prospects for inclusion of (a) bike lane(s) on Fountain Street downtown as part of the Downtown Circulator project – a much more preferable option than Sabin Street, which has to contend with periodic Dunkin’ Donuts Center and Convention Center crowds and traffic. A letter will go out in support of lane(s) on Fountain Street.**

#### **7/ Katuska Perez, Mayor’s Office, City of Providence – Ciclovía 2013:**

**Three sites need to be chosen for this year’s events. The targeted areas are the East Side, Olneyville and Broad Street (site of the first**

**Cyclovia in Providence in 2012). The organizers will be looking for support from BPAC and others and will be working with the City's Healthy Communities Office on organizing.**

**8/ Public Comment:**

**Margherita Pryor raised the issue of the unveiling of RIDOT's train station plaza plans scheduled for March 22 (since rescheduled for April 15) and questioned the extent of bicycle accommodations. She was referred to VHB consultant Bill DeSantis.**

**Bradley Campbell of WRNI introduced himself and said he would be in touch regarding a probable bicycle piece.**

**9/ Adjournment: 5:55 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted by David Everett**