



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting of the Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

January 21, 2015, 4:30 PM

444 Westminster Street

Providence, RI 02903

401-680-8400

Overseeing Body: City of Providence Department of Planning and Development

Meeting minutes approved at February 18, 2015 meeting

Members Present: Eric Weis, Jef Nickerson, Matthew Moritz, Michelle Cortes-Harkins

Members Absent: Jenn Steinfeld

Staff Present: Martina Haggerty and Emily Kish from the Department of Planning and Development

Martina Haggerty from the Department of Planning and Development informed the commission that she will now be acting as staff to the commission in place of David Everett.

Emily Kish from the Department of Planning and Development gave a presentation about the City's Pop Up Providence tactical urbanism program. There will be \$50,000 in available funding for tactical urbanism projects once the request for proposals for Pop Up Providence is released in February 2015. Emily gave a brief overview of the projects that were completed as part of the two previous years of the program and reviewed the categories and guidelines for applications to the program.

Eric Weis asked commission members for their ideas for topics for future BPAC meetings.

Jef Nickerson suggested that a wish list should be created for desired future pedestrian and bicycle investments.

Eric Weis suggested that the February BPAC meeting be used as an open public forum for members of the public to make suggestions to be added to the "wish list".

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Matthew Moritz suggested that the commission ask relevant departments, including DPW, DPD, and RIDOT , for a list of upcoming projects so that the commission is aware and involved in planning for those projects as they advance.

Matthew Moritz also suggested that the commission ask a representative from the new administration of Mayor Elorza to attend the February meeting to make a statement and hear public comments at the public forum.

Eric Weis asked the commission members to give specific “wish list” items that they would like to see accomplished in Providence.

Jef Nickerson suggested that proper sidewalk shoveling be added to the list.

Eric Weis suggested that the list include pedestrian signal improvements to make the signals automatic.

James Kennedy suggested that the City consider converting some traffic lights at intersections to blinking red lights rather than fully on at all times to improve safety. He cited an example from Philadelphia where many traffic lights were converted to blinking red lights and safety at those intersections was improved.

Ellen Cynar suggested that the list include a sidewalk survey of all sidewalks in the city to determine their condition.

Eric Weis suggested that the list include proper signage for closed sidewalks at construction sites.

Jef Nickerson asked that a list of all planned projects from DPD, DPQW, and RIDOT be given to the commission to enable the commission to be engaged in the planning process.

James Kennedy suggested that the City consider a polity to remove parking spots in the City for each new parking spot added.

Michelle Cortes-Harkins suggested that there be an emphasis on improving safety for pedestrians and bicyclists through a campaign to educate the general public and encourage cycling and walking.

Denise Kaplan suggested that the City consider partnering with local businesses to Champion biking and walking in Providence as a cause and to help support and/or fund a campaign.

Michelle Cortes-Harkins suggested that the City and the commission make sure to reach all of the City's diverse neighborhoods to be engaged in this process and in the February public forum.

Martina Haggerty confirmed that she would work with the City to offer translation services if needed.

Jef Nickerson requested that we use this commission and the February public forum as an opportunity to educate public officials, especially City Council members, about the importance of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and investments.

Denise Kaplan suggested that the commission celebrate good bicycle and pedestrian initiatives already happening in both the public and private sectors and acknowledge the people involved in those initiatives to bring positive attention to them.

Alex Krogh-Grabbe asked how the City and the commission can ensure implementation of Complete Streets guidelines.

Ellen Cynar suggested providing training sessions for DPW employees to familiarize them with Complete Streets and NACTO guidelines.

Jef Nickerson suggested that recent zoning training sessions conducted by the Planning Department could be used as a model for Complete Streets/NACTO guideline trainings.

Matthew Moritz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jef Nickerson.

Respectfully submitted by Martina Haggerty.