

CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Via Teleconference
TUESDAY
August 25, 2020

Chairperson HOTHEM called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 4:00 PM.

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Hothem (Chairperson)
Lisa Kayser-Grant
Ann Thurston
Greg Friedman (Vice-Chairperson)
Dwight Ewing

Absent: Mitch Vanagten (Ex-Officio, Excused)
Five Vacancies: (Two Voting, Three Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Stephanie Dietz, Interim City Manager
Venus Rodriguez, Finance Officer
Michael Beltran, City Engineer
Michael Hren, Principal Planner
Jessie Lee, Temporary Development Services Technician I

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2020:

M/S FRIEDMAN/THURSTON, AND DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE (2 VACANCIES), TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2020 AS SUBMITTED.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS EWING, KAYSER-GRANT, FRIEDMAN,
THURSTON, CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE (2 VACANCIES)

ABSTAIN: NONE

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION REQUESTS, INFORMATION ITEMS, AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

(E) INTRODUCTION OF STAFF

Mr. HREN introduced Stephanie Dietz, Interim City Manager, Venus Rodriguez, Finance Officer, and Jessie Lee, Temporary Development Services Technician I. Each member of staff briefly spoke to the Commission regarding their roles in supporting the Commission and the City.

As no members of the public wished to speak on this item, public comment was opened and closed at 4:12 PM.

(F) FEEDBACK ON SHARROWS

Mr. HREN introduced the item and asked for Commissioners' opinions of the epoxy sharrows. Mr. BELTRAN explained that the majority of sharrows currently installed in Merced are thermoplastic rather than epoxy. The Commission discussed signage and education to support users of all modes understanding the meaning and appropriate actions to take when sharrows are present. Mr. BELTRAN described the planned transition between bike lanes and sharrows on M Street.

As no members of the public wished to speak on this item, public comment was opened and closed at 4:25 PM.

(G) ATP PROJECT LIST

Mr. HREN introduced the item, expressing staff's interest in hearing any modifications the Commission would like to see to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Tables of the Active Transportation and Safe-Routes-to-School Plan. The Commission expressed that project PS9 appeared to be complete, project BS4 should be removed from the document and added to a regular maintenance schedule, and that projects PS16 and PS15 require modifications to reflect the correct improvements needed. Mr. HREN noted that staff would be considering these and other modifications moving forward, and that additional recommendations would be accepted for this round of changes for the next three weeks. Any recommendations received after that would be retained for the next round of modifications.

As no members of the public wished to speak on this item, public comment was opened and closed at 4:44 PM.

(H) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

M/S HOTHEM/KAYSER-GRANT, AND DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE (2 VACANCIES), TO ELECT GREG FRIEDMAN AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS EWING, KAYSER-GRANT, FRIEDMAN,
CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM

NOES: THURSTON

ABSENT: NONE (2 VACANCIES)

ABSTAIN: NONE

M/S HOTHEM/THURSTON, AND DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE (2 VACANCIES), TO ELECT TOM HOTHEM AS THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS EWING, KAYSER-GRANT, THURSTON,
FRIEDMAN, CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE (2 VACANCIES)

ABSTAIN: NONE

(I) BPAC MEETING PROTOCOLS

Mr. HREN

M/S KAYSER-GRANT/HOTHEM, AND DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE (2 VACANCIES), TO CONDUCT THE REMAINING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2020 VIRTUALLY, AND TO ADDRESS HOW MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD IN 2021 AT THE LAST MEETING OF 2020.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS EWING, KAYSER-GRANT, THURSTON,
FRIEDMAN, CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE (2 VACANCIES)

ABSTAIN: NONE

Mr. HREN discussed some changes that will be made to future agenda packets for the Commission, including modification to the way minutes are voted on and addition of the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners asked questions about the changes. Mr. HREN and Ms. DIETZ explained that the City is looking to make all Boards and Commissions more consistent in the way that their agendas and other materials are presented. Some Commissioners questioned the need for the addition of the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. HREN explained that other Boards and Commissions already have it as a part of their regular agenda, and adding it brings the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission into conformity with current City practice. The Commission discussed the changes with staff.

As no members of the public wished to speak on this item, public comment was opened and closed at 5:09 PM.

(J) OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. HREN updated the Commission that he had reached out to the Merced Bicycle Coalition regarding language to include in a future City newsletter for safety on shared-use pathways. Mr. HREN stated that he had not yet heard back from the Bicycle Coalition. Mr. HREN also provided an update on upcoming grant cycles. Mr. HREN also noted that there are currently four applications for the vacancies in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, and that they would be heard at the September 8th City Council meeting.

(I) ADJOURN TO OCTOBER 27, 2020, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

M/S FRIEDMAN/HOTHEM, AND DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE (2 VACANCIES), CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 5:21 P.M.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS EWING, KAYSER-GRANT, FRIEDMAN,
THURSTON, CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE (2 VACANCIES)

ABSTAIN: NONE

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission Minutes

August 25, 2020

Page 5

BY:



MICHAEL HREN, AICP
PRINCIPAL PLANNER/
COMMISSION SECRETARY

APPROVED:

GREG FRIEDMAN, CHAIRPERSON
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION