

CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Council Chambers
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 24, 2017

Acting Chairperson HOTHAM called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:01 p.m.

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Hotham (Acting Chairperson)
Jules Comeyne
Greg Friedman
Steven Lerer
Isai Palma
Ann Thurston

Absent: Justin Hicks (Acting Vice-Chairperson) (Excused)
(Two vacancies, two Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Joe Cardoso, Land Engineer
Michael Hren, Principal Planner
Kim Nutt, Planning Technician II
Stephani Davis, Development Services Secretary I

Others Present: Lisa Kayser-Grant, Merced Bicycle Coalition

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 2017

The Commission requested that the phrase “bike bikes” be revised to “bike lanes” on Page 4.

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THURSTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 22, 2017, MINUTES AS REVISED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa KAYSER-GRANT brought to the attention of the BAC the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) workshops for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with the purpose to have public input for the RTP Update. Ms. KAYSER-GRANT specifically called attention to this plan's role in SB-375, reducing greenhouse gases from mobile sources, Land Use, and Transportation.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT also mentioned the Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School Plan (ATP/SRTS) Process. She called attention to a work plan that discussed the creation of a working group to follow up on implementation of the plan that would provide annual project lists and progress reports. Acting Chairperson HOTHEM requested that this item be added to the December Agenda.

(E) BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REQUESTS, INFORMATION ITEMS, AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT spoke regarding the current uses of the Merced Bicycle Coalition's funds: a radio public service announcement and the Mayor's Ride. She requested recommendations for projects to utilize the balance. Mr. HREN discussed the Police Department's willingness to work with a bicycle registration drive. Commissioner PALMA suggested collaborating with schools to have a "Bike to School Day," encouraging kids to ride to school. He suggested having a bike pool or cycling school bus. Ms. KAYSER-GRANT noted a need for volunteers at any such events. Commissioner PALMA noted that Pedal Merced has not taken place in recent years, and posited the revitalization of that event.

Commissioner PALMA noted that the City of Merced was hosting a meeting at McNamara Park at 6:00 p.m. on the development of an all-wheels skate park. The BAC discussed the cost, design, and the meeting.

Acting Chairperson HOTHEM discussed the state of sharrows in Merced, and asked that sharrows be added to a future agenda. He also noted concerns regarding bike paths: erosion, lighting, and infrastructure maintenance. The maintenance of bike paths was requested to be added to a future agenda.

Mr. HREN updated the Commission on the Gateway Merced project.

CAPITAL PROJECT RELATED ITEMS

(F) UPDATE ON MOTEL DRIVE MULTI-USE PATH

Mr. Cardoso clarified the history of the project to the Commission. The project's limits are Merced Avenue to Carol Avenue. It was awarded a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant for \$500,000 for construction. The specifics of the project are still undetermined at this time. It is scheduled for a design phase in 2018-2019, then to go out for award. The Commission discussed the project with Mr. Cardoso, and noted that it would be useful for the BAC to see the plans when they are available during the design phase.

Acting Chairperson HOTHEM opened public comment 3:47 p.m.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT questioned the prioritization of this project. She noted that the BAC had discussed this project at length with strong reservations.

Acting Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 3:53 p.m.

POLICY/BIKE PROMOTION/DEVELOPMENT RELATED ITEMS (Planning Department)

(G) BICYCLE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Mr. HREN provided an update, detailing other cities' practices regarding bicycle registration, noting that the cities researched from the League of American Bicyclists' list of Bicycle-Friendly Cities did not have mandatory licensure requirements. He also referenced some statistics that the Police Department provided, indicating that there have not been a significant number of licenses acquired or renewed in the past year. Mr. HREN added that the Police Department indicated interest in continuing to enforce licenses, and are willing to consider a longer-lasting license period than one year.

The Commission discussed the ordinance and the process for moving forward with a recommendation to the City Council on how to update it. The Commission discussed use of a national database for the purposes of recovery of stolen bicycles. The Commission discussed creation of a subcommittee with the purpose of making a report to the BAC on what updates to recommend to the City Council.

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PALMA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE COMMISSIONERS THURSTON, FRIEDMAN, AND LERER, WITH COMMISSIONER PALMA AS AN ALTERNATE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING UPDATED LANGUAGE FOR MERCED MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 10.44.

(H) BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY APPLICATION “BRONZE” GAP ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Mr. HREN thanked the Commissioners for their comments and input on this process, and gave an update on the status of the City’s potential future application. The BAC recommended clarifying the language on the engineering page.

OTHER

(I) ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Commission discussed potential nominees for the two positions.

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THURSTON, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN, DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HOTHEM AS CHAIRPERSON:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS COMEYNE, FRIEDMAN, LERER, PALMA,
THURSTON AND ACTING CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER HICKS
ABSTAIN: NONE

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PALMA, DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER LERER AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS COMEYNE, FRIEDMAN, LERER, PALMA,
THURSTON AND ACTING CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER HICKS
ABSTAIN: NONE

(J) RESCHEDULING OF DECEMBER MEETING OF THE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION DUE TO CONFLICT WITH THE HOLIDAYS

The Commission discussed potential rescheduled meeting dates due to conflict with holidays and other scheduling issues. Commissioner Thurston mentioned she would be unable to attend a rescheduled meeting on the proposed date.

A motion made by Commissioner PALMA to move the next meeting to December 12, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. failed due to lack of a second.

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, DULY CARRIED BY A 5-1-1 VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT, COMMISSIONER THURSTON DISSENTING), TO RESCHEDULE THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION TO DECEMBER 12, 2017 AT 3:00 P.M.

(K) ADJOURN TO THE RESCHEDULED MEETING OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LERER, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), ACTING CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:41 P.M. TO THE RESCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 678 W. 18TH STREET, MERCED, CALIFORNIA.

BY:



MICHAEL HREN, AICP
PRINCIPAL PLANNER/
COMMISSION SECRETARY

APPROVED:



TOM HOTHEM, CHAIRPERSON
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION