

Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Minutes
Geneva Public Works Facility Conference Room
August 22, 2023
6:30 pm

1. Call to Order

Winnie Frankel of the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee (SPAC) called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Ms. Frankel initiated the meeting since the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) had not yet appointed officers.

2. Roll Call

The following BPAC members were present and did self-introductions: Greg Bobeczko, Declan Cook, Alex Garbe, Carrie Homewood, Sam Kraft, Max Schmitz, Carl Schoedel, Jennifer Siegele, and Mary Carol MacDonald. A quorum was present.

The following BPAC members were absent: Caleb Anderson.

Others present included City of Geneva staff liaisons Matthew Buesing and Brian Davids, as well as Winnie Frankel of SPAC.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

No amendments to the Agenda were proposed.

4. Approval of Minutes: July 18, 2023

The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

5. Bike and Pedestrian Committee

a. Appointment of Officers

The following slate of officers was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present. Max Schmitz, Chair; Jennifer Siegele, Vice Chair, and Carl Schoedel, Secretary.

b. Calendar Review: Establish Regular Meeting Dates

There was a consensus to meet monthly to keep the momentum going as we get off the ground. The committee also decided to target a timeframe of 6 to 12 months to report back to SPAC.

It was decided to target the 4th week of the month to avoid potential conflicts with the regularly scheduled SPAC meetings. In general, the members present and the staff liaisons can attend on Tuesdays, though at least one member had regular conflicts on Tuesday evenings. Chairman Schmitz offered to alternate days of the week to allow participation of all members.

The next meeting date was established as Wednesday September 27 at 6:00 p.m. to allow more time to cover the anticipated agenda.

c. Discussion of Committee Goals

Members took turns offering their ideas for BPAC goals. Suggested goals included ideas for infrastructure improvements, education, and enforcement:

Several members discussed the need for bike parking and racks in high traffic areas and near businesses. Safer, secure parking at the Metra Station, including potential dedicated bike parking within the parking structure was also suggested.

Schoedel suggested an update of the City's Bike and Pedestrian plan, published 2005. Coordinate plans and planning with neighboring communities and regional plans. Several recent plans are available to serve as examples. Resources are available through several regional groups including the Kane Kendall Council of Mayors (KKCOM).

Bobeczko mentioned that he recently encountered a member of the original bike committee which was no longer in existence. The result of that conversation convinced him that we should emphasize the importance of keeping the committee "momentum" going.

Bobeczko also suggested access to the East Side Sports Complex for consideration as priority route.

Where possible, bike and pedestrian facilities should be designed to separate different types of users to improve safety. Bobeczko cited a specific example of a 30-mile trail system in Three Oaks Michigan.

The need for further public education was discussed for all users of the public rights-of-way, including bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists. Members discussed the specific example of navigating the at-grade crossing of the Prairie Path at Kirk Road using the flashing warning beacons. Members also offered opportunities for public education including local festivals, bike to school day, other collaborations with the school district, information provided at local parks and recreational facilities, and a "lock your bike" initiative.

The need for a dedicated line item for bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the City budget and capital plan was identified as an important goal.

Frankel reminded the BPAC members of the *Biking in Geneva* presentation SPAC made to City Council in October, 2022. That presentation offered recommendations including the formation of a dedicated Bike and Pedestrian Committee. Specific recommendations for the Bike and Pedestrian Committee were to: assist with development of updated print and electronic bike materials, help identify options for improving bike friendliness at City

facilities, coordinate Bike/Pedestrian safety education events and activities, help make festivals and events bike friendly through volunteer activities, and provide input and assistance with future updates to City plans.

Schmitz suggested that enforcement of crosswalk laws be an area of focus for the committee. Coordinating with the Geneva Police Department was also discussed.

Schoedel offered to summarize the above discussion and distribute it to the BPAC membership. In addition, he will distribute the 2005 Bike Plan and the October 2022 Biking in Geneva presentation. Members also requested a committee roster be distributed as well.

6. Public Comment

No members of the public were present; no public comment was offered.

7. New Business

No new business was suggested.

8. Adjournment

Schoedel moved to adjourn and Siegele seconded. The motion passed unanimously.