

CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
February 25, 2014

Chairperson GUZZETTA called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:00 p.m.

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: David Guzzetta (Chairperson)
Robert Tyler (Vice Chairperson)
Tom Hothem
Isai Palma
Jules Comeyne
Lisa Kayser-Grant
Patrick Bauer (Ex-Officio member)
Rito Ramirez (Ex-Officio member)

Absent: (one vacancy)

Staff Present: Bill King, Principal Planner and John Sagin, Principal Architect

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2013

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOTHEM, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 11, 2013, MINUTES, AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

KAREN ANN commented that bicycle riders travelling against traffic concerned her, and encouraged the Commission and offered ideas that could support efforts to obtain funding that can be used for educational programs that seek to reduce such riding. The Commission discussed the challenge of educating all sectors of the population that exhibit such behavior.

JOHN GRANT objected to the term to “Buy American” requirement of the projects described in agenda items F and G, and inquired as to its origin.

(E) BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REQUESTS AND INFORMATION

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT inquired of staff as to the status of the Bear Creek bikeway project. Principal Architect SAGIN commented that it is still on hold pending receipt of direction from CALTRANS regarding the Preliminary Environmental Study (PES), and offered to provide the Commission with a copy of the plan that was submitted to CALTRANS as part of that environmental review. Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT expressed concern about the appearance of the project moving forward without Commission input, asked when the public will get a chance to review the project, and commented that the Commission should provide comment in the early stages of project design. Mr. SAGIN stated that: 1) Staff can provide more information after CALTRANS completes the PES; 2) no determination as to the type of bikeway or the location of the bikeway has been made; and, 3) the plans submitted to CALTRANS were general in nature as previously reviewed by the Commission. Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT raised information about project-related work with the Merced Irrigation District (MID) that seems to show pursuit of particular project design and intent to construct a wide sidewalk with bike use.

Mr. SAGIN informed the Commission that work on the South Merced Bikeway project has begun, and will occur throughout the spring as there are several roadway segments to improve with bikeway-related infrastructure, such as Childs Avenue, 19th Street, and 11th Street.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT inquired about the Active Transportation Plan grant fund. Principal Planner KING described the new grant program (compared to the prior Bicycle Transportation Account), staff's past and pending work with local partners to identify projects, and intent to submit bicycle and pedestrian grant applications in May 2014.

Commissioner KAYSER-GRANT suggested that the Commission advise the City Council to remove signs that direct bicyclists to ride on the sidewalk along various road segments of the City, for example along Olive Avenue and "M" Street. The Commission expressed much interest in the topic. Mr. KING stated that the topic can be placed on the Commission's next agenda for formal review and discussion in an advisory role.

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT RELATED ITEMS (Engineering Department)

(F) DOWNTOWN BIKE RACK GRANT PROJECT

Principal Architect SAGIN presented the staff report, noting that the “Buy American” clause came with the grant of federal dollars. He requested input from the Commission regarding the color, type, and location of the racks. Commissioners supported the use of the “inverted-U” type rack, the color green on the racks, to replace the rack at City Hall, and to place extra racks at the Coffee Bandits and J&R Tacos. Commissioner TYLER encouraged the limited use of an alternative rack design, namely the “Varsity,” at sites such as the Merced Theater that could accommodate it. Commissioner PALMA encouraged Staff to explore options for reuse of the existing bicycle racks to be replaced by the new racks. It was suggested after the meeting that they could be sold as part of a surplus goods sale/auction.

(G) BICYCLE SHELTER GRANT PROJECT

Principal Architect SAGIN presented the staff report, noting that the “Buy American” clause came with the grant of federal dollars. He requested input from the Commission regarding the design of the bike shelters. Commissioners offered ideas about lighting, water dispenser design, use of cameras, coordinating sites with bus transit, vandalism, and location to serve bikeways. Commissioner TYLER suggested some consideration be given to siting the “G” Street shelter next to the employee bike parking area at Mercy Hospital to encourage and support employee bike transportation.

POLICY PROJECT RELATED ITEMS (Planning Department)

(H) NO ITEMS

OTHER

(I) EVENTS

The Commissioners discussed bike month, bike to school day, bike to work day, and the “All Merced Road Ride” in May.

(J) ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ON MOTION FROM COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOTHEM, DULY CARRIED, CHAIRPERSON GUZZETTA ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M. TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 678 W. 18TH STREET, MERCED, CALIFORNIA.

BY:

APPROVED:

BILL KING
COMMISSION SECRETARY

DAVID GUZZETTA, CHAIRPERSON
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION