

CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Council Chambers
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
February 27, 2018

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

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Hothem (Chairperson)
Jules Comeyne
Greg Friedman
Justin Hicks
Steven Lerer (Vice-Chairperson)
Isai Palma
Ann Thurston

Absent: (Two vacancies, two Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Michael Hren, Principal Planner

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2017

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HICKS, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2017, MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

LISA KAYSER-GRANT noted that Bike Month is in May, and the Merced Bicycle Coalition (MBC) welcomes participation and input, seeks volunteers on events, and notes that the Mayor's Bike Ride will be Saturday, May 19, 2018. She suggested that BAC discuss Bike to Work Day, and suggested the 2nd week in May. She also discussed the potential for a North/South Bikeway corridor on M Street. She invited all interested parties to a meeting of the MBC to discuss this corridor on Saturday, March 3 at noon at J&R Tacos. She provided a scope of work related to the ATP/SRTS plan with potential for a

permanent informal committee. She also suggested attendance at the City's Town Hall meeting at 6PM.

Commissioner HICKS noted that the All Merced Road Ride will be Sunday, May 6.

Principal Planner HREN noted that the packet provided electronically to the Commissioners contained an outdated version of Appendix A as regards Item E on the Agenda. A memorandum containing the correct version of Appendix A was provided to the Commissioners.

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REQUESTS, INFORMATION ITEMS, AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

(E) SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON BICYCLE REGISTRATION PROCESS RECOMMENDATION

Commissioner LERER described the subcommittee's meeting with the Merced Police Department representative, Lt. STRUBEL. The subcommittee and Lt. STRUBEL found agreement that a national bike registry with proof whether electronic or paper would be an acceptable update for all involved. This removes the fee to register, which the BAC has been advocating, while allowing the Police Department to retain an enforcement tool. There has also been an update to language related to impeding pedestrian traffic with parked bicycles. The Commissioners discussed the proposed changes to the Merced Municipal Code. Mr. HREN stated that Staff would bring this language back to the BAC for formal vote after vetting it.

(F) REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER HICKS ON STRATEGY MEETING WITH CITY PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS

Commissioner HICKS discussed the meeting and its focus on Complete Streets. He indicated that the meeting clarified for him that the General Plan needs to include some of the best practices for signage and infrastructure and other aspects of cycling before they will be a priority in the City. Mr. HREN discussed the potential for a Pilot Project for cycling infrastructure that came out of this meeting and asked the Commissioners to come to the next meeting with recommendations on where a Pilot Project should be located and what that project would include. Chairperson HOTHEM suggested seeking letters of support for a Pilot Project from community organizations and local advocacy organizations. At the request of the BAC, Mr. HREN will include an item on the next agenda to discuss policy recommendations on updates to the General Plan.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened this item for public comment at 3:49 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT commented that previous efforts were unable to get language more firm than “recommend” or “support” regarding complete streets. She proposed that design standards are revisited and improved such that they will support complete streets. She added that M Street from W 13th or W 15th up to W 18th or W 19th may serve as a valuable Pilot Project.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment for this item at 3:56 PM.

The BAC discussed design standards and best practices in relationship to a potential Pilot Project. Mr. HREN noted that W Main Street has high visibility due to its location downtown, which may be a valuable component of a successful Pilot Project.

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

(G) UPDATE ON ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN

Mr. HREN introduced KENDRA BRIDGES of Alta Planning and Design. Ms. BRIDGES discussed the process to this point and the documents provided to the BAC. The BAC discussed the information provided and the prioritization aspects of the plan.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened this item for public comment at 4:19 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT recommended adding a W Main Street project from O St. to G St. She also noted a correction to the limits of item B16 and asked for clarification on other projects.

Chairperson HOTHEM temporarily closed public comment on this item at 4:24 PM due to a proposed recess.

Chairperson HOTHEM called a ten minute recess for the BAC to review the project list.

After the recess, the BAC provided Ms. BRIDGES with corrections, revisions, and suggestions to update the project list details.

Chairperson HOTHEM reopened public comment on this item at 4:52 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT suggested that W Main Street improvements be seen as a new improvement. She also recommended separating Class II bike paths from sidewalks.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment for this item at 4:52 PM.

(H) DISCUSSION OF BIKE SHARE

Commissioner LERER noted that the bike share company, Spin, has partnered with the University of California already and is moving forward with an April launch of services for the Merced campus. With this arrangement, the University does not need to invest in services up front, making this a more approachable project financially.

OTHER

(I) OTHER BUSINESS

The BAC discussed dates for Bike Month. The National Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 18. The BAC determined it would be best to support a regular bicycle month proclamation for May, with May 18th as the Bike to Work and School Day, and the Mayor's Ride on May 19th.

Commissioner PALMA suggested using funding to promote education through social media rather than radio. The BAC discussed education priorities.

(J) ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HICKS, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THURSTON, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:50 P.M. TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018, 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