

Burlington Walk Bike Council (BWBC)

November 1, 2023 Meeting Notes

The monthly meeting took place 5:30- 7:00 pm via Zoom and at the DPW Office.

In-Person Attendees: Erik Brotz (Ward 5, chair), Julia Ursaki (DPW staff)

Online Attendees: Jason Stuffle (Ward 1), Bob Leidy, Faith Ingulsrud (Ward 6), Jonathan Weber (Local Motion)

1. Introductions, Announcements, Updates and Public Comments

Bob Leidy reported that all the mature trees on Main Street for the Great Streets project will be removed. Most are ash trees but he wants to make sure the trees that replace them will be large canopy trees. After speaking with the City Arborist, Bob proposed getting Branch Out Burlington involved and to identify the possible replacement trees. He is concerned there could be political blowback about tree removal if good alternatives aren't proposed. Julia provided a copy of the planting plans for the Great Streets project, which identifies the trees planned for each section of Main Street.

2. Follow-up to Parks Department Discussion - Greenway Issues

After last month's discussion on the Greenway, Jason Stuffle conducted an audit of conflict points along the entire length of the Greenway and developed draft recommendations for improving their treatment - making them safer and more consistent. See attached presentation and spreadsheet for details.

Julia noted there is money to fix railroad crossing exit to depot street but it does not include "path" crossing on Penny Lane.

Jason will address the following to his documentation:

- Note the railroad issue at Penny Lane.
- Add 3rd Priority Pedestrian conflict points at Skate Park/Sailing Center
- Note which crossing are streets that DPW manages vs which are parking lots at parks (P+R)
- Find out if there are P+R standards for Greenway crossing designs and if so, evaluate and address the standards in the recommendations
- Note that the "road" riding in 2 spots were not evaluated - Austin Drive and at Harbor Watch
- Can we have a policy of Idaho Stops on the Greenway?
- Eagle Bay is unique because of private land ownership - can this get fixed?
- Add to General Recommendations: "reevaluate traffic control at road crossings"

All agreed to pass the audit and recommendations as amended on to Parks for consideration and discussion. Next steps - Package up slides + spreadsheet as backup info and send to Parks staff with email cover letter, then meet with them to discuss and/or bring to the Parks Commission.

3. BWBC Work Plan - Reflect and Plan Ahead

Reviewed [2023 BWBC Work Plan](#), identifying which tasks were done and which were not and started a draft 2024 Work Plan.

Many tasks on the 2023 workplan were not completed and all agreed to leave some of those out of the 2024 plan to make it more realistic.

Changes in planning staff have led to a less clear budget and planning process this year; but kept review of the budget for this time of year in the workplan for 2024. In response to a question about the status of hiring, Julia indicated that there were not many applicants for either planner positions so DPW is likely to repost the positions.

Added new planning studies to the workplan; Vision Zero/PlanBTV update is a priority for 2024.

Not much progress tracking city commissions - some effort was made at the start of year, but then did not continue. Will try again with a reduced number of commissions. It should be easier with the new website having all agendas and minutes in the same place.

Decided not to conduct an annual survey this year or a focus on new projects given lack of planning staff and the large number of major planning and construction projects in the works.

A Candidate survey is a priority for 2024 with the mayoral race.

Need to follow up with TEUC on proposed ordinance changes; plan to attend TEUC meeting to bring it back to their attention.

Need to update walk-bike project tracking spreadsheet with current statuses.

Julia noted that CCRPC will be studying improvements to the Shelburne St and Home Ave intersection and will be seeking walkers/bikers for the Advisory Committee. It was noted that the Flynn Ave intersection is a scramble crossing that works well for pedestrians.

Add Maintenance funding to spreadsheet, add to Mayoral survey on how to accomplish

Decided not to conduct a major organizational update in 2024 but will discuss dissolving the ward liaison structure due to lack of interest and revisit how the coordinating committee is selected.

Want to recruit people to help coordinate fun events, like repaint, cycle the city, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7 pm.