

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
Thursday, March 17th, 2016**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Colleen Barclay, Chair
Rob Dow
Diana McDuffee
Kurt Štolka
John Nicopoulos
Linda Haac

STAFF PRESENT

Bergen Watterson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Derek Powers
Bethany Chaney

GUESTS

Taylor McAdam, Erin Convery, Jonathan Ahn

I. Call to order

Colleen called the TAB meeting to order at 7:35pm.

The three guests introduced themselves as students at UNC's Department of City and Regional Planning attending the meeting as part of a requirement in their Intro to Transportation Planning class.

II. Approval of Minutes (March 3rd, 2016)

Kurt moved to approve the minutes, Diana seconded. All in favor.

III. Vision 2020 Discussion

Bergen explained to the group that all advisory boards currently have a second opportunity to comment on all sections of the Vision 2020 document. Linda said that she had been concerned that the TAB had only commented on the Transportation section of the document, and other advisory boards extended their comments to all sections. She said she thought that it would behoove the TAB to comment on all sections that pertain to topics that have been discussed over the past few years at meetings. Linda commented that she thinks that the definition of parks is a controversial issue in Town—whether parks are active recreation or open space. Diana said that she thought that the recreation points system for new developments needs revamping, as it tends to create small pocket parks or recreational facilities that are only used by specific neighborhoods.

The group started working through the Vision 2020 document and commenting on sections. Bergen will go through at a later point and wordsmith the comments:

- 1.11—The TAB seconds the Greenways Commission comment
- 1.12—The TAB believes there should be more parks in Town, which include opportunities for both active recreation and access to natural open space
- 1.15—The TAB seconds the Greenways Commission comment
- 1.16—The TAB seconds the Recreation and Parks Commission comment
- 1.27—The TAB would like to see artistic gateways demarcating the downtown area and the Slow Zone if/when it comes
- 2.11—The TAB recommends that infill development occur wherever it is compatible with infrastructure, road network and transit service
- 2.43—The TAB encourages growth of tree canopies and replacement of aging and/or diseased trees with native species. The tree canopy is our greatest defense against climate change, provides natural traffic calming, and makes the Town livable
- 2.52—The TAB encourages a reevaluation of the zoning districts to accommodate mixed housing stock to achieve this goal

The group decided to table the discussion and continue at the next meeting.

IV. Bike and Pedestrian Safety WikiMap Presentation

Bergen showed the group the WikiMap that Ruth, the GIS Analyst, created for the Town in response to the TAB's and Board of Aldermen's desire to have a consistent way of collecting bike and pedestrian safety concerns from residents. The group had some initial comments on the functionality of the program, as well as processes for handling comments:

1. The first menu says that you can choose all that apply, but in reality you can only select one option.
2. This map is not for issues that require immediate response from the Town, and that needs to be clear on the website. There should be a link to the proper place for reporting more imminent issues.
3. There should be a shorter URL that people can remember.
4. How will we handle Chapel Hill issues? There should be a contact for Chapel Hill planning on the map.
5. There needs to be a protocol for cleaning up the map and wiping it clean, addressing comments, etc.

Bergen will send out the URL and have TAB members play around with the map. The group extends a huge THANK YOU to Ruth for creating the WikiMap!

V. Other Business

Summer Streets:

Kurt requested that the group add a discussion about Summer Streets to the agenda. Bergen said that it was Annette Stone (Economic Development Director) and Public Works that initiated the Summer Streets program with the Board of Aldermen last year. Linda commented that it costs the Town around \$2,000 each time to close Weaver Street. Bergen added that this money is used for Public Works overtime, police time, electronic sign rental, etc. Colleen said that the Town purchasing an electronic message sign came up many times in the Open Streets planning meetings. Diana added that it should be requested now that the Town is in their budget discussions. Linda noted that last year the event was well attended some days and hardly at all the other days. Kurt said he thought that that was because the dates were erratic, it was hot, and the events were not well advertised. Linda suggested that if Summer Streets happens again this year then they should measure success by how many people come to the events. Kurt said that he would like to see more organized activities at the events, to draw people in.

Three primary needs/questions came up related to the high price tag for each Summer Streets event:

- 1) The Town to purchase an electronic variable message board
- 2) Are the police necessary at the events, since the station is right next door?
- 3) Can we create a volunteer force rather than Public Works to close the street?

Bergen said that she will look into the sign purchase, but that someone from TAB will need to write up a proposal addressing the plans and other issues. Bergen will send out the agenda items she found from last year when George Seiz brought it to the Aldermen. Linda suggested having one event in early July then again in August. Diana said that we will need to get a decision about Summer Streets from the Aldermen before they break for the summer, that way we will not have to wait until they come back in September. Kurt noted that the event was not continued into the fall last year because it was unofficially deemed 'not successful'; he wondered what constitutes 'success'. Linda said that she thought that 'success' meant the benefit outweighing the cost of putting on the event. Linda said that the Town should take on the advertising responsibilities for the events. Diana suggested getting Weaver Street Market and the ice cream shop to help promote the events.

Taylor McAdam said that three students in DCRP have agreed to do an economic impact assessment of Open Streets in April. She will send Bergen the names of the students so she can set them up with Kurt.

VI. Staff Report

Bergen told the group about the status of the bike share discussion. She is waiting to hear back from UNC about the requirements for the application to apply student fees to the project that is due in August. The discussion may go to the Board of Aldermen for their April work session, but that has not been confirmed yet. Kurt added that UNC Transportation had a meeting with the campus housing office and they suggested increasing the student transportation fees and including bike share in that, rather than adding a separate fee.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.