
PETALUMA PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008
6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 2
11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

1. ROLL CALL:

Committee: Album, Arras, Asselmeier, Barrett, Choi, Lofroos*, Tacy, Tarr, Webster, Yetter

Staff: Frank Penry, City Traffic Engineer

* Chair

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of April 9, 2008, were approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Committee will hear public comments only on matters over which it has jurisdiction. There will be no Committee discussion or action. The Chair will allot no more than five minutes to any individual. If more than three persons wish to speak, their time will be allotted so that the total amount of time allocated to this agenda item will be 15 minutes.

Trinity Pellkofer: She had written a Letter to the Editor about a close-call in a crosswalk on East Washington Street. She was interested in PBAC and wanted to come experience a meeting. She was pleased that pedestrian safety was so thoroughly discussed during the meeting. She also wanted to mention that her husband was kicking off a program that would give each of his employees a free bike if they promised to bike to work at least three times each week.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A) Butter & Egg Days (Webster; Schuerman Choi)

Committee Member Webster reported that volunteers will begin setting up the valet bike parking lot at 9:00am, and start parking bikes at 10:00am. Frank Penry said that Public Works will deliver the racks at 9:00am on Saturday. Committee Member Webster said that unclaimed bikes at 5:00pm will be locked to the bike racks at the parking garage and owners will need to call Committee Member Webster to retrieve them. The committee agreed to sell the "One Less Car" t-shirts for \$10 (had been \$12).

B) Bike to Work and School (Album; Schuerman Choi)

Committee Member Album reminded members to try to attend the following City Council meetings: May 5 at 7:00pm for the reading of the Bike to Work/School Week proclamation and May 19 at 7:00pm for the presentation of Bike to Work/School Day winners. The Bike to Work Day banner will be hung on May 5 over Kentucky Street. Committee Member Schuerman Choi reported that all schools have been notified about Bike to Work/School Day. Members should continue to ask for prize donations.

C) Safe Routes to School letter to Council (Lofroos)

Chair Lofroos delivered the letter on April 11. Committee Member Barrett said that Council members did receive it.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety (Sgt. Ken Savano, PPD: ksavano@ci.petaluma.ca.us / 778-4596)

Sgt. Savano said that the crosswalk sting that occurred earlier in the month was triggered by a rising number of collisions and complaints from the public. The number of collisions involving pedestrians was 18% higher in 2007 than 2006, and the number of collisions in the first quarter of 2008 (8) may indicate that the numbers will exceed those in 2007. Thirty percent of the collisions in 2007 were on the Washington Street corridor. Pedestrians are not at fault 61% of the time. More crosswalk stings are planned.

Bicycle collisions were also up in 2007, but the number of collisions in the first quarter of 2008 (3) was low. Unfortunately, three more collisions were reported in April. Bicyclists are at fault in a majority of collisions, often because they are riding on the wrong side of the street.

1) Crash & Collision Reports (Album)

Committee Member Album suggested that PBAC works with the Police Department to write a press release about the low numbers of collisions in comparison to the increased number of bicyclists and pedestrians. Committee Member Webster said that we should focus more on youth, and that there is a need for more people to assist with bike rodeos. Committee Member Album also suggested that perhaps there should be a City ordinance that would require safety information to be distributed with every bike sold in Petaluma.

2) Publicizing Safety Records (Tacy)

Committee Member Tacy also mentioned that the collision rate is falling and we really should work with the Police Department to get the word out. He also distributed excerpts from TRB's TCRP Report 125, *Guidebook for Mitigating Bus and Pedestrian Collisions*, and requested that this be discussed at a later PBAC meeting.

- B) Development Code Committee - Possible Pedestrian & Bicycle Subcommittee (Arras)

Committee Member Barrett will ask that the interim Code be emailed to PBAC members. PBAC will discuss establishing a subcommittee to focus on Code relevant to bicycles and pedestrians at the next meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: May 14, 2008.

Bike to Work/School Week, crosswalk safety, Development Code subcommittee, East Washington Place project review (Webster, Yetter)

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A) Sonoma County BPAC (Album)

Committee Member Album reported that the new County Public Works Director, Phil Demery, said that they think they have enough money to pay for the County portion of the Petaluma Boulevard North bike lane project. Committee Member Album had also attended a meeting on March 30 about access in Tolay Park. In the interim (next 3-5 years), all trails within the park will be multi-use (bike, pedestrian, equestrian) but may only be used by persons completing a class to obtain an access permit. These classes should start soon.

- B) Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition (Maunder)

No report. Did have a meeting on April 22.

- C) Parks, Recreation & Music Commission (Tarr)

No report on committee business. Committee Member Allen Tacy did mention that the cracks on the Lynch Creek Trail are growing ever wider. Committee Member Album reminded Committee Member Tarr that he would still like her to bring up the subject of signs for the Lynch Creek Trail.

- D) Planning Commission (Arras)

No report.

- E) Petaluma Development Code Committee (Arras/Barrett/Asselmeier)

Committee Member Barrett said that subcommittees were selected within the Development Code Committee.

- F) Public Works (Penry)

No report.

- G) Compliance and Safety

No issues submitted.

8. ADJOURN: 7:35pm

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Paula Lane Action Network