

CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Council Chambers
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 12, 2017

Acting Chairperson HOTHEM called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:03 p.m.

(B) ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Ann Thurston (Excused)
(Two vacancies, two Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Scott McBride, Director of Development Services
Michael Hren, Principal Planner
Stephani Davis, Development Services Secretary I

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2017

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 24, 2017, MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Principal Planner HREN noted that LISA KAYSER-GRANT of the Merced Bicycle Coalition provided written comments in lieu of attendance. He provided the Commissioners with her comments.

In reference to Ms. KAYSER-GRANT's request for City Staff to develop a bicycling project selection method to be used for grant funding submittal, Mr. HREN noted that the BAC and Planning Department do not have the authority to create formal policy governing City Departments. He suggested that if the BAC desired such an item, a representative should attend a City Council meeting to present the request. The Commissioners discussed matters relating to coordination between the BAC and City Departments. The Commissioners requested that Mr. HREN forward the third paragraph of Ms. KAYSER-GRANT's public comment to the Engineering and Public Works departments, along with a number of proposed methods to improve communication.

Development Services Director MCBRIDE spoke about the process of facilitating working relationships and moving toward better communication. He also clarified to the Commission that Engineering is no longer a part of the Development Services Department.

(E) BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REQUESTS, INFORMATION ITEMS, AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON BICYCLE REGISTRATION PROCESS RECOMMENDATION

Mr. HREN provided an update regarding the information provided by the Police Department, including historical records of licensing, stolen bicycle recovery, and required licenses. The Commission asked for clarification of the recovery statement, and Mr. HREN stated that there were no records available that indicated a stolen bicycle was recovered by using the City of Merced bicycle license.

Vice-Chairperson LERER presented the report on behalf of the Subcommittee. He indicated that the Subcommittee looked at other communities' codes, including Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, and Fresno, and used commonalities between those codes to make suggestions for improvement of the Merced Municipal Code. The language as proposed removes bicycle licensure from the Municipal Code entirely, as well as adding elements from other codes discussing such issues as emerging from an alley, riding on sidewalks, and bicycle parking. The proposal also removed the language specific to locations where riding on sidewalks is forbidden in favor of relying on signage to indicate such locations. Mr. HREN recommended returning the language specific to those roadways.

The Commission discussed the goals of the proposed amendments further, in conjunction with the knowledge of the Police Department's stance on some of the ideas raised by the amendment as proposed. The Commission requested that the Subcommittee meet with a representative from the Police Department to explain the Commission's goals, learn more

about the Police Department's goals, and to attempt to find common ground for a future amendment proposal. Mr. HREN agreed to coordinate such a meeting.

The Commission also recommended that the Subcommittee add to its proposal definitions of terms such as sharrows, parking boxes, sidewalks, impeding, accessible, and forms of signage and infrastructure that have emerged since the passage of the original ordinance. The BAC also recommended that the Subcommittee clean up the language of the proposed Municipal Code revisions section **10.44.070- Parking** to reflect not impeding pedestrians.

CAPITAL PROJECT RELATED ITEMS

(F) UPDATE ON SHARROWS AND BIKE PATH MAINTENANCE

The Commission discussed sharrows and their implementation in Merced. Commissioner HICKS proposed a minimum standard of green bike boxes every 150 feet on streets where such facilities are located. He also advocated for high frequency signage as an educational device that is consistent across the community. Commissioner HICKS indicated that non-reflective sharrows are not visible at night and quickly darken to become difficult to see even during the day due to vehicle traffic. He also expressed a willingness to speak to City Departments regarding Complete Streets, and bring the results of that meeting back to the Commission.

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN, SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO EMPOWER COMMISSIONER HICKS TO SPEAK TO REPRESENTATIVES FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS REGARDING COMPLETE STREETS.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened public comment on this item at 4:23 p.m.

A written comment from Ms. KAYSER-GRANT was provided to the Commissioners.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment on this item at 4:25 p.m.

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

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

Mr. HREN provided an update regarding the public workshops that were recently held regarding proposed projects and prioritization. The Commission discussed the counts of cyclist and pedestrian traffic as well as collision and citation data.

OTHER

(H) OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. HREN noted that, per request from the Commission to determine at which meetings they had discussed Motel Drive prior to the meeting of October 2017, he had concluded those meetings were in February and April of 2016.

Mr. HREN stated that, per Chairperson HOTHEM's request, Commissioner PALMA had provided the budget for last year's radio broadcast, which amounted to \$3,000. Mr. HREN also updated the Commission on the status of the Gateway project.

Commissioner HICKS asked for a future agenda item to update the Commission on the status of High Speed Rail and the proposed transit hub downtown. He clarified that any updates related to the footprint of the proposed structures, other information regarding the current state of the planning process, and what progress can be expected in the 12-24 month horizon would be welcomed.

The Commission discussed bike share programs and suggested a number of potential partners in any bike share efforts: the City of Merced, UC Merced, Merced College, and Venture Lab. Mr HREN indicated that efforts inclusive of UC Merced may also need or benefit from the inclusion of the County of Merced. The Commission discussed the viability and appropriateness of smartphone application-based bike share systems.

(I) ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PALMA, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:50 P.M. TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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