

CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Council Chambers
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
June 26, 2018

Chairperson HOTHEM called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:05 PM.

(B) ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Justin Hicks (Excused)
(Two vacancies, two Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Michael Hren, Principal Planner

Others Present: Lisa Kayser-Grant, Merced Bicycle Coalition

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2018:

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THURSTON, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), TO APPROVE THE APRIL 24, 2018, MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson HOTHEM opened the floor to the public at 3:07 PM.

LISA KAYSER-GRANT reported on Bike Month Activities, including the Mayor's Bike Ride with over 50 participants and giveaways for bikes and helmets. She also responded to comments she has heard indicating the Bicycle Advisory Commission is a "small special

interest group”. She urged that the Commission represents everybody in Merced, children and adults, and that everyone should be able to ride a bike safely and without fear.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 3:11 PM.

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REQUESTS, INFORMATION ITEMS,
AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(E) REPORT ON MEETING BETWEEN CITY STAFF AND BAC
REPRESENTATIVES**

Chairperson HOTHEM had prepared a summary of the meeting in question, which was provided in the Commissioners’ packets. Chairperson HOTHEM explained the summary. Principal Planner HREN described some of the reasoning for the proposed evolution of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to include more Active Transportation issues.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened public comment at 3:29 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT noted that she would be concerned about the committee solely focusing on Active Transportation Plan (ATP) grant seeking and endorsing, and that she feels the Commission has a larger scope. She also noted concerns with past issues regarding the Bicycle Advisory Commission and City Staff.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 3:36 PM.

Chairperson HOTHEM reopened public comment at 3:37 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT would like to see representatives from the meeting attending the BAC.

Mr. HREN indicated that he was able to answer questions to the best of his ability and provide a conduit to others as well. He explained the City’s desire to have more communication and input between the BAC and staff, especially on projects seeking grant funds in a rapid timeframe.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 3:45 PM.

POLICY, BIKE PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ITEMS (Planning Department)

(F) LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CHILDS AVENUE MULTI-USE PATH ATP APPLICATION

Mr. HREN introduced the item and explained the genesis of this request. The Commission discussed the town hall meetings from which this project originated. Commissioner PALMA spoke regarding the public meeting and the requests for improvement of this area.

Chairperson HOTHEM asked to see the full plan. Mr. HREN indicated that this application includes performing the design of the pathway and that those plans are not available yet. The Commission indicated that they would like to review the design work once it is completed and asked for the letter of support to be revised to that effect.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened public comment at 3:58 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT noted that she would like to see a path that is wider than the minimum allowable path and that there be clear delineations for cyclists and pedestrians. She added that the Merced Bicycle Coalition is willing to consider submitting letters of support as well.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 4:04 PM

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LERER, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN, DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE TO AMEND THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDS AVENUE MULTI-USE PATH ATP APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

AMEND THE FIRST AND LAST PARAGRAPHS TO STATE THAT THE APPLICATION IS, 'FOR THE DESIGN OF A CHILDS AVENUE MULTI-USE PATH THAT FULLY SUPPORTS THE NEEDS OF BOTH CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS'.

AMEND THE LAST PARAGRAPH TO ADD, "THE BAC LOOKS FORWARD TO REVIEWING AND WORKING WITH THE CITY OF MERCED REGARDING THE DESIGN OF THE CHILDS AVENUE MULTI-USE PATH."

AYES: COMMISSIONERS COMEYNE, FRIEDMAN, HOTHEM, LERER,
THURSTON, PALMA
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER HICKS
ABSTAIN: NONE

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PALMA, AND SECONDED BY CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM, DULY CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE TO EMPOWER CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM TO SIGN THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CHILDS AVENUE MULTI-USE PATH ATP APPLICATION, CHANGING THE SIGNATORY FROM VICE-CHAIR LERER TO CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM, AS AMENDED:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS COMEYNE, FRIEDMAN, HOTHEM, LERER,
THURSTON, PALMA
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER HICKS
ABSTAIN: NONE

(G) COMPLETE STREETS PILOT PROJECT DISCUSSION

Mr. HREN explained that the City Engineering Department had determined, of the options presented, that G Street north of Olive Avenue has the best opportunity to proceed quickly. The Main Street project would be listed in the Active Transportation Plan as a secondary option; due to construction activities and other considerations that project is likely to have a longer delay in implementation.

Chairperson HOTHEM suggested extending the bicycle infrastructure as far as the City boundaries. He added potentially extending the project to the west side of G Street north of Yosemite, and also to include the area near El Capitan High School. Mr. HREN indicated that he could list those suggestions as additional options to this project should funding become available.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened public comment at 4:15 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT noted concern that the proposed primary location for a Pilot Project is in a location that is already well served for bicyclists.

The BAC discussed other potential Pilot Project locations and treatments.

Mr. HREN advised that improving an area that has an active cycling community creates an opportunity to get a groundswell of support for expanding new treatments to other locations in Merced.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 4:25 PM.

(H) OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. HREN noted that the updates to the Merced Municipal Code, regarding bicycle licensing, will be going to the City Council on August 6, 2018.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened public comment at 4:27 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT described the Mayor's Bike Ride poster contest. Mr. HREN thanked the Merced Bicycle Coalition for their coordination and support of the Mayor's Bike Ride.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 4:28 PM.

(I) ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,

ON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER COMEYNE, AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LERER, DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE (ONE ABSENT), CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:28 P.M. TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 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