

CITY OF MERCED
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Council Chambers
678 W 18TH STREET
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY
February 26, 2019

Chairperson HOTHEM called the meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Commission to order at 3:02 PM.

(B) ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Hothem (Chairperson)
*Jules Comeyne (arrived at 3:04 PM)
Greg Friedman (Vice-Chairperson)
Justin Hicks
*Isai Palma (arrived at 3:06 PM)
Ann Thurston

Absent: (Two vacancies, two Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Michael Hren, Principal Planner
Taylor Hensley, Planning Secretary I

Others Present: Lisa Kayser-Grant

(C) APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2018:

M/S HICKS/FRIEDMAN, AND DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE,
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2018, AS SUBMITTED.

(D) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Principal Planner HREN introduced Planning Secretary HENSLEY to the Commission. Mr. HREN stated that there have been three resignations in the Engineering Department in the past month, including the City Engineer. Mr. HREN also noted that the City Attorney's office requested an agenda item for the April meeting to provide Brown Act training.

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION REQUESTS, INFORMATION ITEMS, AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

(E) PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. HREN provided an update on M Street signage. The Commission determined that the item would be tabled until a new City Engineer was in place.

Mr. HREN provided an update on the Childs Avenue Corridor Multi-Use Path project. The Cycle IV Active Transportation Program did not fund the project. Commissioner PALMA asked what other options were available to fund this project. Mr. HREN suggested that the Commission could make a recommendation to City Council or attend a City Council meeting to request additional funding sources be committed. The Commission discussed the project and future funding strategies for it.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened public comment at 3:23 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT agrees that the Commission should wait until new a City Engineer is in place before continuing to address M Street signage. She also questioned the selection methodology of the Childs Avenue Multi-Use Path grant application. Mr. HREN noted that the Childs Avenue project was a direct response to community feedback at last year's Town Hall meetings, at which concerns for children walking to and from school were loudly voiced. Ms. KAYSER-GRANT clarified that her concern was with the selection of the project for an Active Transportation Grant funding opportunity when the project had such a large infrastructure funding need.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 3:28 PM.

(F) COMMISSION VACANCIES AND FUTURE SCOPE

Chairperson HOTHEM introduced the item and noted that a need for better communication is present. He suggested that the inclusion of additional active transportation subjects, such as pedestrian issues, on the Commission's agenda could alleviate the void by bringing more groups to the table.

Mr. HREN discussed the possibilities of evolving the Bicycle Advisory Commission to include pedestrian issues and generally becoming more inclusive of all active transportation issues.

Mr. HREN provided an update on the status of existing applications to be a Commissioner, noting that there is currently one application for an Ex-Officio position. He also requested that Commissioners recruit additional persons who would like to be involved in the Commission.

The Commission discussed the scope, size, naming, and other details of the Commission in the future. Commissioner HICKS noted that Complete Streets should remain a primary focus of the Commission, not becoming a grant approval-focused group.

Mr. HREN updated the Commission on the relationship between the Commission and the Traffic Committee, and that the future City Engineer would be the appropriate person to discuss a member of the Commission sitting as an Ex-Officio member of the Traffic Committee. Mr. HREN suggested that, in the interim, a member of the Commission regularly attend the Traffic Committee to strengthen that relationship.

The Commission discussed the connection between itself and the Traffic Committee.

Chairperson HOTHEM opened public comment at 4:04 PM.

Ms. KAYSER-GRANT discussed her research on other cities' bicycle-related efforts. She recommended remaining a Commission rather than becoming a Committee. She also discussed the history of the Active Transportation Plan in Merced. She recommended moving to a monthly meeting rather than bimonthly. She also noted that naming the Commission "Complete Streets Commission" would not necessarily take into account bicycle facilities away from streets such as showers, lockers, etc. She recommended that cyclists make up at least half of the Commission's composition.

Chairperson HOTHEM closed public comment at 4:21 PM.

(G) OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner PALMA asked to get an update about Measure V at a future meeting.

Commissioner HICKS updated the Commission about upcoming events relating to Bike to Work and School Month. The Commission requested staff to prepare a proclamation declaring May as Bike Month and Thursday, May 2, 2019 Bike to Work and School Day.

M/S HICKS/HOTHEM, AND DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE A PROCLAMATION FOR BIKE MONTH AND BIKE TO WORK AND SCHOOL DAY FOR 2019.

(H) ADJOURN TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

M/S FRIEDMAN/PALMA, AND DULY CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, CHAIRPERSON HOTHEM ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:39 P.M. TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019, AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 678 W. 18TH STREET, MERCED, CALIFORNIA.

BY:

APPROVED:



MICHAEL HREN, AICP
PRINCIPAL PLANNER/
COMMISSION SECRETARY



TOM HOTHEM, CHAIRPERSON
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION