

## Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting of August 17, 2016

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender and Phil Goff. Doug Greenfield was absent. Also attending were Officer Neil Simard, Elizabeth Shea, Cecily Miller and Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

We all introduced ourselves. Officer Simard represents the Arlington Police Department and Cecily Miller represents several organizations promoting public art in East Arlington.

\*Approval of the May minutes. The minutes for the May meeting were approved after they were amended. The vote to approve was unanimous.

COBWEB (Officer Neil Simard). Neil told us his thoughts about the Lake St/Bikeway intersection. He has directed traffic at that point and wonders about the efficacy of a using a traffic light at that position. Scott outlined the history of that intersection and all of the data that was collected. He then told Neil why the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended that a light be put at that intersection.

CLAMP project update. Scott told us that construction is proceeding close to schedule. He also told us that the TAC is planning an educational display on the HAWK signal that will be installed at the Swan Pl. crossing as part of the project. Neil asked to be updated on the use of a HAWK signal because he anticipates that the Police Department will have to answer questions about it and enforce its use. We decided to appoint a working group composed of Scott, Stephan and Christopher to prepare educational material for the ABAC booth at Town Day. Scott added that the overall theme of the TAC booth will be the Complete Streets Program and they will have a map showing town-wide crash data for all modes of transportation.

Arlington Center Redevelopment, Phase II. Phil told us that he feels that that the east half and west half of the project should be considered separately, the east/west demarcation being the Pleasant St./Mystic St./Mass. Ave. intersection. Christopher told us that there has been some pressure for bike lanes in both directions along the whole length of the project even though there is currently not enough room in the street cross section in portions of the western half. Phil thought that ABAC should have a large amount of input into the final design. Christopher suggested that ABAC have a meeting with the consultants in the near future.

Phil then gave us a summary of the bicycle accommodations in the plan. He would like to see bike lanes in both directions on the eastern half of the project and that they be painted green for safety. We discussed the options of sharrows vs bike lanes in the western half of the project and the option of putting bike lanes in both directions between Pleasant St. and Water St. where it is currently very uncomfortable to ride west-bound because the road is so narrow.

Artwork on the Bikeway. Cecily told us the plan for artwork illustrating local businesses. She told us about the proposal for a cultural district connecting Arlington Center with East Arlington. She proposed incorporating public art along the Bikeway right-of-way between those two town

centers. Cecily asked for our input and ideas for making this project safe and enjoyable. We spent some time considering the placement and extent of the project. Stephan thought that, whatever the nature of the final project, the fact that the Bikeway is a transportation corridor means that bicycle traffic should not be slowed or blocked. Jack thought that the entrance at the Center is an opportunity for art that could have a wayfinding function. We also suggested that the proposed bike repair station might be an opportunity for an artistic design. We all agreed that this topic merits further discussion before implementation.

Bikeway user counts. Joey gave us the numerical results for the Bikeway counts taken in May and July. The counts in July are down from those recorded in May. We didn't know what factors led to this decrease. We then discussed whether to do counts in September. We decided to do counts on Tuesday September 13 and Saturday September 24.

LAB application. Christopher told us that the application has been submitted. He also told us that the League has asked us to advertise and distribute a questionnaire for the public. Since we haven't seen the questionnaire, we tabled the issue until the next meeting.

Minuteman Bikeway 25th anniversary. The Town Manager is appointing a town-wide committee to plan the anniversary celebration and requested that there be a representative from ABAC. Jack and Joey volunteered to serve on the anniversary committee.

Rails-to-Trails historical Bikeway sign. Ron sent the proposed text for the sign, which was submitted to us by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, to a knowledgeable member of the Arlington Historical Society who did not agree with its historical authenticity. Ron will connect Rails-to-Trails with the Historical Society and let them hash it out.

Bikeway Hours. We discussed an inquiry sent to the Bikeway Website about Bikeway hours of use. A bicyclist returning from work at about 9 in the evening. was stopped by the police and told that the Bikeway was closed. This is the first time in the history of the Bikeway that we have heard of this happening. We resolved to revisit the hours of use issue at a future meeting with the possible result of requesting that Town Meeting change them in the spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

\*A vote of the board was taken.

These minutes submitted by Stephan Miller