Salt Lake County Bicycle Advisory Committee – February 13, 2018

Present: AJ Martine, Blair Tomten, Martin Gregory, Marcus Kaller, Eric Kraan
Absent: Adan Carrillo, Jack Lashley, Angelico Bolanos

5:35 pm- Approval of Prior Meeting’s Minutes

Blair Tomten determined that, since there were not enough members to constitute a quorum under the committee by-laws, that approval of the minutes from prior meetings should be shelved.

5:37 pm- Public Comments

Dave Iltis, of Cycling Utah, discussed updates from the current state Legislative session. SB 34 is an appropriation bill that covers active transportation. There were other appropriation bills for funding Bike Utah’s Youth Education program and SafeSchools. The Utah Bike Yield bill passed the house 58-20. HB 13 focuses on distracted driving. A new trail is under construction from Lehi to Draper, while no progress was made on getting a trail connecting Saltair into Tooele County. The Wasatch Front Regional Front (WFRC) will release a transportation plan within the week for public comment.

Melanie Mitchell, from the District Attorney’s office, said that anyone who speaks should state their name and who they represent, if applicable. She also asked if there were enough members to constitute a quorum.

5:42 pm- Interview with Alex Parker

Alex Parker, a resident of Cottonwood Heights for 23 years, talked about his experience as a road cyclist and expressed his interest to join the committee. Alex talked about how his experience commuting via bicycle led to being a advocate for active transportation. Blair said they cannot recommend his appointment due to the lack of a quorum to vote. She said to return next month when there is a quorum.

5:50pm- Partner Updates

County Health – Katherine Hiolski thanked Eric Kraan for the connection to Brighton High School and Butler Middle School in the Canyon School District. She reported that they were able to help those schools’ PTA with their SafeSchools program. When the season changes, the Health Department plan on doing an audit on sidewalks and bikeways. Blair Tomten asked Katherine about the winter’s effect on asthma, which she said was not good, even with the storm activities.

Parks and Recreation – Wayne Johnson, associate divisions director, said that snow removal is not a high priority due to budget constraints and logistics. Marcus Kaller said much of the Jordan River Parkway was plowed. Wayne said they were accomplished by the cities themselves. Dave Iltis asked what would it take to improve winter maintenance of bikeways. Wayne said the issue should be revisited, especially with the variance of snow levels year by year, with options including legislative assistance. And with shoulders and bike lanes, they are, at times ignored during snow removal.
6:05pm- Open Meetings Training

Melanie Mitchell, from the District Attorney’s office talked about the committee’s responsibility to declare whether their employment or group affiliation presents a conflict of interest in serving on the committee by signing a disclosure statement. She also went over the Open Meetings Act that the committee must abide by. She reminded the committee to keep track of who votes in the minutes. In addition, meeting minutes must be posted within three business, as does any recordings. Furthermore, she defined what can be done in a closed meeting.

6:17pm- County Updates

Helen Peter reported that Hugh Van Wagenen, Active Transportation Planner for WFRC, coordinated a meeting with Salt Lake, Weber, and Davis counties. Salt Lake County will lead on the placement of bicycle counters, and Helen was working with RSG and Certus Environmental on completing the NEPA document as a necessity before accepting funds to purchase the counters.

Helen also provided updates on numerous bills being debated at the State Legislature. The bills covered several topics related to active transportation, such as the modification of cyclist traffic at a stop sign, safe routes to schools, distracted driving, motor assisted scooters, and appropriations for Bike Utah’s Youth BEST Program and 1,000 Miles Campaign, and $2 Million for technical assistance by UDOT.

Helen attended a meeting with the WFRC on what goals its active transportation committee wants to accomplish. And public comment will be accepted on the regional transportation plan.

Helen said she needs input on the design for business cards that committee members can pass out.

She informed the committee about the Utah Bike Summit at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi on March 5, and Golden Spoke will take place on May 11. Blair asked committee members if they were interested in attend the summit.

6:25 pm- Budget

Eric Kraan passed out the budget spreadsheet to members. It listed the Bike Utah Summit sponsorship and the Salt Lake Bicycle Collective youth open shop program approved in January. Only the business cards and the social media optimization were approved for allocation. No measures were passed due to a lack of a quorum.

6:30pm- 2019 Committee Goals

Blair Tomten said she attended the Millcreek City Celebration, with maps to talk to residents about active transportation. She encouraged members to ride the roads to identify any bike routes not present in the maps. She is also looking to update the committee’s web page and build a social media community. Blair mentioned that Amy McConkie (Venture Out in Millcreek) was looking for bike advocates to encourage children to ride bicycles. This is what Blair saw as a committee goal, to have members become bike advocates. She wanted to hear from members about what goals the committee should pursue, with little feedback. AJ Martine suggested we should hold and think about goals some more until March. He also said we should have a larger presence in the Mayor’s office, especially with a new County Mayor, and be advisors to the office.

6:45pm- Meeting Adjourned