

MINUTES
Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee Meeting
August 29, 2022

Attendees: Edie Dondero (Chair), Glenn Tom, Beth Rosso, Kathy Wood, Dennis Roberts, Bob Shields, Dick Oliver, Bob Biciocchi

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dondero at 1:33 PM.

Public Comment:

Diann Nazarian, 20 Peterson Drive, reported that the property owners on the corner of Russell and Peterson have created a parking space in the ROW that is an obstruction to large vehicles and has prevented the Fire Company from making the turn onto Peterson Drive. She asked that we inform Joe Hinks, Code Enforcement Officer, and Chief Lovins of the SBPD about the matter and ask that they look into any safety issues. *[Ms. Dondero brought the matter to the attention of Mr. Hinks and Chief Lovins on September 6th.]*

The minutes of the June 9, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

The Committee discussed the Bike Rodeo held on July 16th at Town Hall and was in agreement that the event was a success and that attendance exceeded expectations. A recap of the event and the activities offered was provided for the members who were unable to attend. Mr. Biciocchi questioned whether it was too late to include something in the Coastal Point about the event and suggested that, for any future event, we work on getting more sponsorship and/or involvement from local businesses and bike shops. In follow-up to the event, Ms. Dondero submitted a letter to the editor of the Coastal Point thanking all participating volunteers, businesses who donated goods, and the SBPD and BBVFC. Formal thank you letters were also sent to all participating businesses and organizations.

A discussion was held about the future of the Committee, which was created in June 2021 as a one-year ad-hoc committee but extended through September 30, 2022 to allow for the Bike Rodeo. With the expiration date nearing, Chairperson Dondero asked the Committee whether they felt that the Committee had achieved its goals and should disband; should be extended for another year; or should request to be converted to a permanent standing committee.

Mr. Shields questioned what message it would send to residents if the Committee were not extended and advocated for a continuance.

Mr. Oliver noted that because the Town receives a new influx of visitors and renters each summer, hosting an annual event would enhance the Committee's goal of public education about road safety. He felt the Committee should be extended at least as long as to permit another Bike Rodeo.

Mr. Roberts stated that he is in favor of continuing the Committee which he felt could continue to work on addressing existing safety issues. He recognized that the Committee is somewhat limited in that it is dependent on the Public Works department for implementation of most measures/improvements.

Mr. Shields remarked that by having the Committee, there is a group of residents dedicated to paying attention to these issues and an avenue for bringing concerns to the Council.

Mr. Tom questioned what would be the forum for residents to make suggestions about bike safety if this Committee did not exist and felt the Committee should continue.

Mr. Biciocchi thought the Committee, if extended, should look at doing more with signage. He advocated not for more signs, but for better, more effective signs.

Mr. Shields pointed out that there are opportunities for the committee to tap into State funding for safety-related projects and seek grant opportunities.

The Committee was in agreement to seek Council approval to convert to a permanent, standing committee. Chairperson Dondero will request that Council vote on the matter at the September 9, 2022 regular business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28pm.

Minutes approved November 16, 2022