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CULVER CITY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CULVER CITY BICYCLE AND  
PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 19, 2021  
6:00 P.M.

**Call To Order & Roll Call**

Chair Weiner called the special meeting of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to order at 6:05 P.M. via Virtual WebEx.

**Members Present:** Michelle Weiner, Chair  
Art Nomura, Vice Chair  
Zirwat Chowdhury, Member  
George Montgomery, Member  
Travis Morgan, Member  
Robyn Tenensap, Member

**Absent:** Dane Twichell, Member

**Staff Present:** Charles Herbertson, PW Director/City Engineer  
Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic  
Engineering Manager  
Alicia Ide, Management Analyst  
Valerie Perez, IT

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Member Montgomery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Order of the Agenda**

The Consent Calendar was heard before Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda, Receipt and Filing of Correspondence was heard before the meeting was adjourned, and Item PR-2 was heard again before Items from Members/Staff (Continued).

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**Procedural Items**

Item PR-1

**Selection of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair for 2021-22**

MOVED BY MEMBER TENENSAP, SECONDED BY CHAIR WEINER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINT ART NOMURA TO SERVE AS VICE CHAIR OF THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 (ABSENT MEMBER TWICHELL).

MOVED BY MEMBER TENENSAP, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR NOMURA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINT MICHELLE WEINER TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 (ABSENT MEMBER TWICHELL).

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Item PR-2

**Oath of Office for New and/or Re-Appointed Members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for 2021-22**

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, reported that Members Chowdhury and Twichell had taken their Oath of Office at the Ethics training session in June and she indicated that she would administer the Oath of Office to reappointed Member Robyn Tenensap at the end of the meeting.

Vice Chair Nomura indicated that he had taken the Oath of Office during the Diversity training session.

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### **Items from Members/Staff**

Chair Weiner welcomed new Member Chowdhury.

Member Chowdhury introduced herself, indicated eagerness to work with the Committee, and provided background on herself.

Staff and Committee Members introduced themselves and provided background on their related experience.

Chair Weiner reported acting as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) representative for the Community Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) regarding MOVE Culver City; discussed the dedicated bus/bike lane going through downtown Culver City and the Arts District; the timeline; project components; Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); and outdoor dining.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the bus platforms; additional information at [moveculvercity.org](http://moveculvercity.org); the ramps to allow enhanced accessibility; and allowing right-of-way for bike riders.

Member Morgan encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, announced a special City Council meeting on the Jackson Gate scheduled for August 23 at 5:00 PM; discussed scheduling of a BPAC meeting in September; and she reported a request from the City Clerk's Office that the BPAC create bylaws.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding scheduling and agenda items for the September meeting; creation of a subcommittee to create Committee bylaws; providing an avenue for Committee input into the draft; captioning availability for meetings; and staff agreement to communicate with the City Clerk's Office regarding captioning for the special meeting for the Jackson Gate and for all City Council meetings to allow for accessibility.

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The Consent Calendar was considered out of sequence.

### **Consent Calendar Items**

MOVED BY MEMBER TRAVIS, SECONDED BY MEMBER TENENSAP AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE ITEMS C-1 AND C-2 (ABSENT MEMBER TWICHELL) .

Item C-1

**Approval of Minutes for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Special Meeting of May 13, 2021**

THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 13, 2021 (ABSENT MEMBER TWICHELL) .

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Item C-2

**Approval of Minutes for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Special Meeting of June 3, 2021**

THAT THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 3, 2021 (ABSENT MEMBER TWICHELL) .

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**Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda**

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Committee:

David Coles discussed his repeated comments regarding the sidewalk closure at 8888 Washington Boulevard; expressed concern that nothing is being done by the City to expedite opening of the sidewalk; discussed denial of public use of public space; completion of work at the location; and he asserted that the developers would not prioritize the issue unless they receive pressure from the City.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding efforts to address the issue; Committee consensus to agendize a discussion of sidewalk closure policy for development projects, remediation, and the policies of other cities; understanding the process between the City and the developer for bike and pedestrian access during development projects; decisions and the timeline for restrictive use;

detours; concern with adding to the staff workload; the significant number of construction projects in the City; street lights that are out on Washington Boulevard between Landmark Street and Higuera Street; and staff encouraged Committee Members to share concerns with appropriate staff.

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## **Presentations**

Item P-1

### **Receive a Presentation Regarding Emergency Services to the Ballona Creek Bike Path**

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the origin of the item; standard police response provided on the Creek; the challenge of access; Bike Patrol; staffing levels; the unhoused population and observed encampments; response time; access points; calls for service around Overland Avenue; decreased Bike Patrol presence as a result of budget cuts; types of calls; fireworks; reduced activity around the footbridge due to COVID; the difficulty of getting the gate open when responding to a call; general crime statistics for the area vs. for other parts of the City; accessibility; motorized dirt bikes on the Bike Path; allowing e-bikes; the challenge of addressing medical emergencies on the Path; determining the exact location in order to respond; the Fire Key; safety of the Bike Path; the absence of a notable increase in crime with other gates that have been opened; other calls for service citywide; determining best access points to respond to emergencies; cause of delays; the need to carry in equipment; reliance on descriptions being given to the 911 operator by passersby; adding signage or markings along the Bike Path to allow for easier identification of location; improving lighting on the Bike Path; the value of prevention; ensuring consistency with the condition of the Bike Path; grants; upcoming improvement projects; the focus on lighting under the bridges; vandalism concerns; officers knowledge of the Bike Path; raising awareness; increasing foot and bike traffic on Path to improve safety; and staff agreement to research the fatality on the Bike Path and provide information regarding difficulties addressing the situation and what has been done to remedy them.

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated no requests to speak.

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Item P-2

**Receive a Presentation and Provide Feedback on Proposed Conceptual Plans for the Farragut-to-Jackson Pedestrian Walkway Project**

Joe Susca, Senior Management Analyst, introduced the item; provided background on the project; creation of a Capital Improvement Project to improve the existing pedestrian walkway; scope of work; the plan to retain existing trees and plant new trees and ground cover; addressing visibility issues; and installation of a new path to better accommodate cyclists, an irrigation system, provision of lighting, and possibly the provision of a mural.

Linda Taft Endler, Landscape Architect - Associate Consultant for the City, presented initial design sketches for the project; discussed her observations on use of space; accommodating various users; privacy issues for the neighbors; design intent; the art component; the existing chain link fence; scale of the project; avoiding/minimizing effect on neighbors; setback provisions; identifying signage; ground cover; the design with security in mind; ensuring there are no issues with people being able to hide in bushes; providing water filling stations for people and animals; bollard lights; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance; the proposed kiosk; plant options; and materials used.

Patrick Reynolds, Parks Manager, discussed program elements based on previous public comments; meandering the path to slow down cyclists; and proposed sustainable design elements.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding location of the project; size of the overall area; width of the path; provision of bike racks; creation of a pass-through park; amenities; residents input; the preliminary presentation; costs to implement the proposed plan; access; entry points; possibility of separating bikes from pedestrians; right-of-way; tree roots; clarification that the proposed lighting is low-wattage LED; effectiveness

of solar powered lighting and the energy efficient system proposed; scale of the project; proximity to Carlson Park; concern with over-programming of the space; the number of benches and gathering spaces proposed; illustrating opportunities; community response; concern with the blind corner; purview; concern with creating a more narrow lane of travel than what currently exists; potential conflicts between bicycles and pedestrians; aesthetics; practicality; safety issues; and addressing issues with future designs.

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Committee:

Jona Dinges expressed gratitude for proposed improvements to the path; discussed privacy concerns; benches close to the property line; proximity to bedrooms; lingering; noise concerns; safety and security; potential use of the benches by homeless individuals; and he inquired about the overall objectives of the project.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding appreciation for the input; respect for privacy concerns; neighborhood use of the path; cut-through usage; compromise; survey response; and whether elimination of the benches would alleviate concerns.

David Coles expressed support for the proposed design; discussed narrowness of the path; people with larger bikes; support for adding benches; and he wanted to see native plantings.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding indigenous plantings; issues with placing native plants in small contained areas; sun exposure; root expansion; the Urban Forest Master Plan; and the focus on climate appropriate trees and plants.

Greg Maron provided background on himself; discussed the need to travel-through the area; appreciation for the proposed art space and suggested limiting benches to the viewing space; allowing more space for passage of bicycles and pedestrians; the fact that Jackson Avenue is the only street that does not have a stop sign at Farragut Drive; and he proposed adding a stop sign if usage is to be increased.

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director, indicated that consideration of a potential stop sign would have to be examined as a part of the Bike Boulevard project subject to provisions of the CA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Chris Mejia provided background on himself; discussed beautification of the pedestrian and bike walkway; concern with the proposed benches; the Farragut Bike Boulevard Plan; the need to study how the spaces work together; whether the area would turn into a bike expressway; other traffic patterns that could be created by the opening of the Jackson Avenue gate; privacy concerns; support for the aesthetics of the design; he suggested a bike and pedestrian path with landscaping on either side to provide more privacy for the neighbors; and he questioned whether there had been any traffic studies regarding increased bike traffic.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Mejia, staff and Committee Members regarding neighborhood focus; heavy usage on the Ballona Creek Bike Path; the intent to create a more inviting and convenient space for people in the area; the feeling that the space is too small to become a major attraction; the intent to slow down bike traffic with the meandering of the proposed path; light studies; concern with addressing security needs without light spilling into the neighboring houses; and future regular maintenance.

Sophie Nenner expressed support for making the area accessible to bicycles; asserted that it is impossible to speed up in the passage; discussed making room for both pedestrians and bicycles; restricted visibility when exiting on Farragut Drive; ADA accessibility; the need for a stop sign; children using the path; and taking advantage of the space to encourage walking and biking.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding benches design that would make it difficult to lie down; support for safely accommodating both cyclists and pedestrians; width of the available space; pedestrian right-of-way over cyclists; existing signage indicating that people need to walk their bikes; appreciation to staff for taking the time and care to make a creative conceptual design to enhance an unattractive space; creating privacy for the neighbors with the trees; the inappropriateness of providing a facility where cyclists would speed; the Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan; decomposed granite vs. asphalt;



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permeable pavers vs. concrete; surface evenness; durability; safety as the first concern for landscape architects; use of a meandering vs. linear path; empathy for the neighbors; lighting; and the proximity of the benches to neighbor windows.

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Item P-3

**Receive an Update Regarding Dockless Bikeshare Program Deployment and Bicycle Parking**

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, provided an update regarding a dockless bikeshare program deployment in the short-term while the Metro Bikeshare Program is being restructured in the Westside area, and the purchase of customized bicycle racks some of which will be used in the Downtown area.

Chair Weiner invited public comment.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated that no public comment had been received.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding identified Bikeshare locations; installation of customized bike racks in the Downtown Culver City; seeking Committee feedback before installation; the deployment of MOVE Culver City; expected length of time until the METRO Bikeshare Program is deployed; additional mobility options with MOVE Culver City; ensuring equity and sufficient coverage; and other areas that provide multiple options.

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**Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)**

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, indicated that no additional public comment had been received.

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Item PR-2  
(Continued)

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**Oath of Office for New and/or Re-Appointed Members of the  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for 2021-22**

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, administered the Oath of Office to reappointed Members Robyn Tenensap and Art Nomura.

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**Items from Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
Members/Staff (Continued)**

None.

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**Receipt of Correspondence**

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 9:10 P.M., the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned to a special meeting to be held on September 14, 2021.

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Alicia Ide  
SECRETARY of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian  
Advisory Committee  
Culver City, California

APPROVED

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Michelle Weiner  
CHAIR of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory  
Committee  
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

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Jeremy Green  
CITY CLERK

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Date