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CULVER CITY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

November 21, 2019  
6:00 P.M.

**Call To Order & Roll Call**

The regular meeting of the Culver City Bicycle and  
Pedestrian Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05  
P.M. in the Patacchia Room.

**Members Present:** Andrew Leist, Chair  
Michelle Weiner, Vice Chair  
Art Nomura, Member  
Samantha Shanman, Member  
Robyn Tenensap, Member\*  
Dane Twichell, Member

\*Member Tenensap arrived at 6:15 P.M.

**Absent:** Phillip Hernandez, Member  
Ann Diga Jacobsen, Member  
George Montgomery, Member

**Staff Present:** Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director  
Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering  
Manager

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Leist led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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## **Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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

Chair Leist invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Committee:

Jim Shanman reported on meetings with the City about basic improvements to encourage children to walk to El Rincon and he thanked staff for their diligence.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Shanman and Committee Members regarding safer crossings; curb cuts; short term vs. long term plans; and staff agreement to provide a presentation at the next meeting.

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## **Consent Calendar Items**

### Item C-1

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director, noted a correction in the minutes to staff listed as present.

THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE PASSED A MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 15, 2019 BPAC MEETING AS CORRECTED.

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## **Action Items**

### Item A-1

## **Discussion of Allowing the Travel of Bicycles and Scooters Within Town Plaza with Maximum Speed Restrictions**

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director, distributed a copy of the resolution approved in 2006 and, responding to inquiry, discussed resolutions vs. ordinances.

Chair Leist invited public input:

The following members of the audience addressed the Committee:

Sophie Nenner received clarification regarding the ban on skating and riding skateboards and bicycles on Town Plaza premises declared in 2006, and she hoped to be able to ride through the Plaza until another safe place to ride is provided.

Jim Shanman commented on new developments and construction and the need for a safe bike route.

Member Tenensap joined the meeting.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding pertinence of the old resolution to the new Plaza; a suggestion for a revised resolution that allows bicycles; Culver Steps; the need to address the current status; the need for a new resolution; grandfathering in the thoroughfare for bicycles and pedestrians; getting people from the train station to the Downtown area; elimination of the partial road; determining practical restrictions to speed; enforcement; new construction; the 20-foot fire lane; limitations on space with new landscaping; the need to incorporate bicycle and scooter riding into the development; prior understanding that access would be provided; communicating with the developer as soon as possible; and support for adopting a resolution that allows bicycles and scooters through the Plaza with a designated speed limit.

Adrian Killegrough suggested having the bike route through the plaza be a yellow brick road.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding safety concerns; children; and skate boarders.

Jennifer Rockwell suggested alerting schools and the community that rules are changing in Town Plaza and to be aware of bicycles and scooters.

Sophie Nenner discussed the Bike to School event and transmitting the message that cyclists are allowed to be at the Plaza.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding support for updating the rules; different types of biking with varying speeds; new jobs coming into the City; adding a dismount area; crowds; experiences of riders in Manhattan Beach; providing a designated lane through the Plaza; damage caused by skateboarders; pass through traffic vs. skateboarders practicing tricks; special events; signage; a suggestion that staff research and formulate recommendations; riding bicycles on sidewalks; the route to the Plaza; speed and behavior; discussion with the Police Department; and ensuring that pedestrians have the right of way on the sidewalk.

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Item A-2

**Discussion of Bicycling Infrastructure in Culver City and Pace of Implementation**

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding a suggestion to have Engineering delineate an order of implementation with a timeline; concern with successful implementation with such a small budget; the Active Transportation Program (ATP); Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP); the grant cycle and due dates; adjusting pavement markings during resurfacing projects; cost of living offsets; safe bicycle parking; theft; bike lockers at the Metro Station and Metro Bike Hub; new private development; short term parking; planning; locations; bike lockers used as storage; City parking structures; fees; supply; availability; new developments; neighborhood greenway streets; sharrows; identified classes for bike facilities; the Ballona Creek Bike Path; prioritizing routes; moving toward a complete network rather than piecemeal construction; frustration among cyclists; plans for Farragut; Class 3; landscaping and greenway components; costs; expediting the process and making enhancements later; storm water projects; a suggestion to share the map of the proposed bike route with the public; outreach; community

consultation; and the survey conducted to see where people want to see bike routes.

Chair Leist invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Committee:

Jennifer Rockwell expressed support for distributing the map to the general public and additional communication.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the timeline; building momentum; budgetary limitations; and providing information to the public before going to the City Council for consideration.

Victoria Rosenfield suggested reaching out to people in the vicinity of the bike route and sharing the map for their input in addition to sharing it with the potential users.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding expenses involved with mailings; signing up for mailing lists on the City website; and nextdoor.com.

Sophie Nenner indicated that she would leave her information and was available to provide updates.

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Item A-3

**Discussion of the Ballona Creek Revitalization Project (BCRP), Associated Action Plan and Implementation Strategy, and BPAC's Views Regarding the Jackson Street Gate**

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed correspondence received and distributed to Committee Members.

Herb Gelman, Jackson Street resident, expressed appreciation for living in a progressive city; acknowledged the work of Jim Shanman; discussed his family's participation in mobility programs; access;

direct impacts to the neighbors; previous assurances that the gate would not be opened; safety concerns; rain; climate change; signatures collected in opposition to opening the gate; visibility for drivers; and he expressed concern with creating an access point that results in safety issues for the sake of convenience.

Jennifer Rockwell discussed concerns with safety and climate change; good intentions; diversity of streets; the survey conducted by Alta Consulting; the amount of increased usage; traffic; affects to neighborhood safety; narrowness of the path; and she asked that the item be put on the backburner until due diligence can be done.

Victoria Rosenfield, Jackson Street resident, indicated that she had never seen the gate open; cited Los Angeles Times reports on the experience of opening a gate to river access in Reseda; tents on the bike path; the need to provide adequate housing for the homeless; public property in residential areas; and parkway encampments.

Jim Shaman expressed support for opening the gate and enhanced access; discussed encouraging families to ride their bikes to school; other gates that are open; addressing issues if they arise; having Public Works examine ways to address the issue of neighbors pulling out of driveways; caregiver access; and, responding to inquiry, he indicated that students of Turning Point and Echo Horizons could use the new access point.

David Metzler, Carlson Park resident, discussed different routes that he felt safe taking; other groups that would benefit from enhanced Creek access; safety; and concern with people being trapped for one mile along the Creek.

Sophie Nenner expressed support for opening the gate noting that she lives in the area; she indicated that she and her son would use the bike path; and she discussed enhanced safety with increased traffic.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding the experience of Member Jacobsen's brother who passed away on the bike path due to the inability of emergency services personnel to access the Creek; appreciation for resident input; the public right of

way; changes taking place in the City; enhancing safe routes so that people will get out of their cars; positive experiences riding the Ballona Creek Bike path; making the area less isolated by opening the gate; the pilot project; limited hours; changing habits; neighborhood traffic; the homeless issue; keeping the Creek as part of the City; the Ballona Creek Revitalization project; coordination with Los Angeles; doing more with the Creek; differing viewpoints with regard to the Creek; lighting; underpasses; finding solutions to address resident concerns; and positive change in the City.

Responding to a member of the audience who asked that the Committee visit the site to understand resident concerns, Chair Leist explained Brown Act restrictions and indicated his willingness to visit the site.

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Item A-4

**Discussion of the General Plan Update**

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed the two-year process; focus on the update of the travel model; establishing thresholds for the Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) model; the Speaker Series; and regular General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meetings at the Senior Center that are open to the public.

Member Tenensap noted that the Speaker Series meetings are videotaped and available on the City website.

Chair Leist invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Item A-5

**Discussion of Valet Bike Parking at City Sponsored Events**

Member Nomura discussed establishing safe bike paths throughout the City; secured parking for bicycles; bike theft; and providing safe bike parking for City events.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding other events where parking lots are charged with handling bicycle parking as well; volunteers vs. people who are hired to provide a service; logistics; costs; space considerations with bike lockers; and the new Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator position.

Chair Leist invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the Committee:

Jennifer Rockwell suggested creating an app for secured bike parking.

Adrian Killegrough suggested working with a bicycle manufacturer to obtain bike racks in exchange for marketing.

Member Nomura provided photographs and discussed a semi-permanent, free bike valet that he had seen in Vancouver.

Chair Leist expressed support for use of professional bike valet services for special events and development of a more formal process.

A meeting attendee felt that bike valet should be provided for all City events to encourage cycling and proposed that funding for environmental practices and improvement of green space could be used.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding sponsorship opportunities; the need for research; responsibility for watching over people's valuable bicycles; the need for compensation; and inappropriateness of using volunteers.

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

Chair Leist invited public comment.



The following member of the audience addressed the Committee:

David Metzler suggested looking at the bike path on Pacific Beach in San Diego to see an instance of scooters and bicycles in a highly congested area; concern with design to discourage scooter riding; wheel chair access; placement of real grass to discourage the homeless from using areas; and the use of fake grass.

Victoria Rosenfield referenced the death of Member Diga Jacobsen's brother on the bike path noting that it was rare for someone to die on the bike path and not a good enough reason to open the gate.

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#### **Receipt of Correspondence**

Chair Leist noted that receipt of correspondence had been acknowledged previously in the meeting.

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#### **Items from Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members/Staff**

Member Nomura reported attending the California Bike Summit with Member Weiner; discussed the veto by Gavin Newsome of a transportation bill; and he acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the support for transportation available in Culver City.

Member Weiner discussed the responsiveness of Santa Clarita city staff to feedback on their pilot project for new infrastructure to alert motorists of the presence of bicyclists at intersections.

Heba El-Guindy, Mobility and Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed signal coordination at National and Washington; experimentation with letting signals along National be dictated by cycle length; updates to bikeshare information on the website; staff review of proposals for the Expo-Downtown Bicycle Connector; the hiring process for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator; the Asphalt Art grant; and items going before the City Council in January.

Discussion ensued between staff and Committee Members regarding pedestrian cross buttons; the crossing at Madison and Culver; and the need to agendize an item to discuss specific locations in more detail.

Chair Leist discussed the hit and run fatality on Washington Boulevard and asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Reynaldo Martinez.

Responding to inquiry from Member Weiner, staff discussed the grant for bike racks; distribution throughout the City; design going forward; budget; potential vendors; branding; costs; additional funding sources; and agreement to bring additional information forward at a future meeting.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 8:38 P.M., the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned its meeting in memory of Reynaldo Martinez to January 16, 2020.

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Heba El-Guindy  
SECRETARY of the Culver City Bicycle and Pedestrian  
Advisory Committee  
Culver City, California

APPROVED

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Andrew Leist  
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