

**LEE COUNTY  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES  
January 17, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Wheaton, Chair, At Large  
Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large  
Theodore (Pat) Connor, District 2  
Paul Cohen, Affordable Housing Representative, At Large  
Steve Jansen, Walkable Community, At Large  
Eric Spivey, Vice Chair, Bike Industry Representative, at Large

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Paul Benvie, At Large  
Damon Shelor, District 5

**STAFF**

David Wagley, LC DCD  
Marcus Evans, LC DCD  
Belinda Odom, LC DCD  
Jillian Scholler, Lee DOT  
Olivia Cassidy, LeeTran

**GUESTS**

Ron Gogoi, LC MPO  
Derek Felder  
James Rodriguez  
Sue McMillin  
Robert Johnson  
Greg Lambert

**Agenda Item #1, \*Call to Order, Introductions and Review of Agenda:**

Mr. David Wheaton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Development/Public Works building, 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, First Floor Conference Room 1B. Introductions were made.

Mr. Wheaton asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

**Mr. Pat Connor made the motion to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Mr. Paul Cohen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #2: \*Approval of the November 15, 2023, meeting minutes.**

Mr. Wheaton called for a review of the November minutes.

**Mr. Paul Cohen made a motion to approve the November minutes as written and it was seconded by Mr. Pat Connor. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #3, Public Comments:**

Derek Felder (Williams Project in Lehigh) Stated that he attended the November Meeting, and that since then, they have created a sidewalk committee within the Lehigh Acres Community Council, and created a map of Lehigh Acres outlining the current projects that are on the BPAC list that are in Lehigh. They are color coated for the different levels of the roads. He passed the map out to everyone. He asks that priority #112 on the BPAC list be revisited, as it is close to schools where children are walking.

Sue McMillin (Pine Ridge Road) Asked for a sidewalk on Pine Ridge Road from Pointe Club Dr. to McGregor Blvd. #5 on the BPAC list as well as #8 Pine Ridge Road from Ballast Point Dr. to McGregor Blvd. She stated that there is major ground moving equipment and constant sand trucks going up and down to a major development at 16281 Pine Ridge Road. She asked Mr. Wagley to bring it up on the big screen to show everyone the map. She also mentioned #2 Gladiolus Dr. on the list and how active she has been with BPAC and CIP projects getting sidewalks on Pine Ridge Road.

Robert Johnson (Olga Community Club) Sidewalk from South Olga to Palm Beach, they had a community meeting, and he presented a letter to BPAC expressing the support of the Olga Community Club supporting a sidewalk.

Greg Lambert (Eagle Ridge Property Owners Association) #15 on BPAC list for American Colony Blvd. & Eagle Ridge Drive. He just wanted to bring to light that artery feeds seven different communities in that area and receiving more high-speed traffic. The Board has decided to pay LCSO for four hours to patrol more often trying to bring speed down in that area.

**Agenda Item #4: Bike-Ped Facility Requests/Presentations:**

**(a): Sidewalk Request:** James Rodriguez (San Carlos Park) Presented a presentation and slideshow for a sidewalk request for Barbara Dr from Carrier Rd to Pebble Beach Rd & Carrier Rd from Dumont Dr to Albany Rd. There was a discussion among the group and Mr. Wheaton stated they would take it in consideration and discuss it next meeting.

**(b): \*Sidewalk Request – Williams Ave from 615 Williams Ave to W 12<sup>th</sup> St**  
Mr. Wheaton stated that this item was discussed at the last meeting on November 15, 2023.

**Mr. Steve Jansen made a motion to add this project to the BPAC List and it was seconded by Mr. Paul Cohen.**

Mr. Wheaton asked for a vote on adding the Williams Ave. project item to the list.  
**The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

**(c): Sidewalk Request:** Mr. Steve Jansen

JY Linear Park underpass at Daniels Pkwy

Mr. Jansen had a slideshow presentation for a sidewalk request for a 6-8 ft wide sidewalk going under the bridge/overpass to allow pedestrians to cross Daniels Road safely.

There was a discussion about the rain amounts, safety factors for women, lighting, wildlife in the canal and if a barrier would be needed.

Luckett Rd from Ortiz Ave to Hamilton Dr.

Mr. Jansen presented a slideshow for a sidewalk request for Luckett Rd from Ortiz Ave to Hamilton Dr. There was a brief discussion on where this was located. Mr. Wagley commented from staff's perspective that this is a Tier 1 CIP for major road project so this means it would be constructed with bike lanes and off-road paths.

Ballard Rd pedestrian connection to Golden Lake Rd.

Mr. Jansen presented a slideshow request showing the ditch that needs a pedestrian crossing to serve the community.

Oriole Rd from San Carlos Blvd to Alico Rd.

Mr. Jansen presented a slideshow requesting a sidewalk on Oriole Rd from San Carlos Blvd to Alico Rd showing the new lights, schools, regional park, transit service and commercial expansion in the area.

**(d) \* Sidewalk Request:** Mr. Pat Connor (Constitution Cir from Cypress Point Rd to San Carlos Golf Club) He stated the demographics for this area, the traffic data, and that the sidewalks are funded by impact fee money.

There was a brief discussion among the members about who asked for this request, the usage of the golf course, what else do they offer there and do they have food or snacks at the facility.

Mr. Wheaton stated that the main concern is the process of the committee, and criteria was to get a project on the list. There were suggestions on limiting the list, and a new way to organize it.

**Other Business: Agenda Item #5(c):** Mr. Ron Gogoi, AICP MPO Update

Mr. Gogoi shared a slide show that was for informational purposes only about the Florida Gulf Coast Trail and the Sun Trail Network. It goes through ten Counties including Lee County. He also announced that FDOT, who is maintaining the Continuous Count Stations for bike path counts, and for the first time they have installed one in Lee County on the North side of Daniels Parkway at John Yarbrough Linear Park. The hardware is installed but the counter is not yet activated as there is a software glitch. Once active, this info will be updated monthly.

The next four slides were stats on All Crash Fatalities, All Crash Serious Injuries, Bike Ped Crash Fatalities and Bike Ped Crash Serious Injuries which show the data for multiple years from different sources.

**Agenda Item #5(a): Election of Officers**

Mr. Pat Connor made a motion to keep the same Officers for BPAC this year as last year, it was seconded by Mr. Steve Jansen.

Mr. Wheaton called for a vote. Vote was called and passed unanimously. The officers will remain the same for 2024.

Mr. Paul Cohen asked if there was anything in the governing documents that the Chair or Vice Chair can stay in that role for a certain period of time. Mr. Wagley replied that it was indefinite with this committee.

**Agenda Item #5(b): Initial BPAC Evaluation**

Mr. Wagley stated that Staff is asking for more time to come up with something, probably next month. There is a meeting set up later this month and they will evaluate the four road impact districts,

**Agenda Item #6: Member Comments:**

Members discussions were about pedestrian and bicyclist safety, crosswalk protocol, cyclist riding in the road, cars parking on sidewalks, drivers not following the road rules, Florida Statues 316.2069 & 316.2065. BPAC members also discussed developers putting in sidewalks, sidewalk fee in lieu, nighttime pedestrian fatalities on US 41 between Pondella & Pine Ridge and the need for street lighting, connectivity between Parks & Rec. and Transit, the BPAC list and the point system, the program Complete Streets.

Mr. Wheaton asked when do we renew our charter/resolution. Mr. Wagley responded the resolution change is on hold right now, and it takes a board adoption to change it.

**Agenda Item #7: Staff Comments**

No comments

**Agenda Item #8: Other Government Entity Comments**

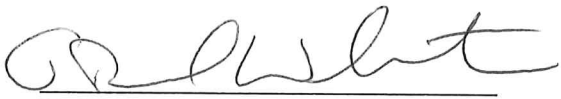
No comments

**Agenda Item #9: Upcoming meeting items**

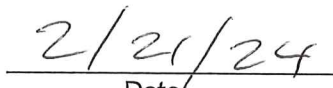
\*Next Meeting date - Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

**Adjournment**

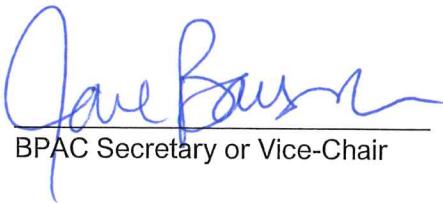
Mr. Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.



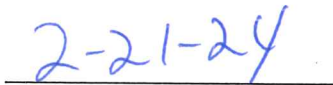
BPAC Chairman



Date



BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair



Date