

**LEE COUNTY
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Wheaton, Chair, At Large
Eric Spivey, Vice Chair, Bike Industry Representative, At Large
Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large
James Smith, District 3
Theodore (Pat) Connor, District 2
Paul Cohen, Affordable Housing Representative, At Large
Derek Felder, District 1

MEMBERS ABSENT

Damon Shelor, District 5
Steve Jansen, Walkable Community Representative, At Large
Paul Benvie, At Large

STAFF

Jillian Scholler, LC DOT
Tom Marquardt, LC DOT
David Wagley, LC DOT
Bridgette Blanchard, LC DOT
Bruce Littleton, LC DOT
Olivia Cassidy, Lee Tran
Brandon Kaczmarek, LC Parks & Recreation

GUESTS

Joyce Johnson, Eagle Ridge

Agenda Item #1: *Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda and Motion to Approve 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. David Wagley stated that he and Mr. Tom Marquardt would be switching the order of their presentations in item number 5. He also shared that Ms. Brandi Lange, a member of the public, was not able to attend today's BPAC meeting, therefore the sidewalk presentation/ request for Coolidge Ave in item number 4a would take place during a future BPAC meeting. Mr. Wagley will reach out to Ms. Lange to see if she will be able to present at the October BPAC meeting.

Mr. Wheaton asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended by Mr. Wagley. Ms. Jane Bowser made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Paul Cohen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #2: *Approval of the June 19, 2024, meeting minutes.

Mr. Wheaton called for a review of the June 19, 2024 minutes.

Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Paul Cohen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Public Comments:

- (a) **Daniels Pkwy to Aeries Way Dr, and Daniels Pkwy down American Colony to Eagle Ridge –** Ms. Joyce Johnson introduced herself as the vice president of the Eagle Ridge Property Owners Association. Ms. Johnson said she noticed that American Colony Blvd & Eagle Ridge Rd, a sidewalk from Aeries Way Dr to Daniels Pkwy is on the top projects from *BPAC Adopted Prioritization List from Tier 2*. She asked for clarification on this.

Mr. David Wagley explained there will be further discussion on the Three Tier Point Scoring System later in the meeting.

Ms. Johnson said she will stick around to hear further information.

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

No requests or presentations.

Agenda Item #5: Other Business

- a) **CIP Bike-Ped Presentation** – Mr. Tom Marquardt shared a presentation on the status of the bike-ped projects in DOT's CIP program. Mr. Marquardt shared information on the following:
- Current bike-ped projects in DOT's design construction
 - BPAC projects currently in design
 - Projects in or near construction
 - Top projects from the BPAC list to move into budgeting
 - Major CIP road/ bridge projects including sidewalks or SUPs

Mr. Paul Cohen noted that on page 2 of the presentation document, Westgate Blvd East and Westgate Blvd W do not match with what is on the BPAC list (#14 and #18). The BPAC list contains a typo and should be written as *Westgate Blvd East – 4th St West to Lee Blvd*, and *Westgate Blvd West – 4th St West to Lee Blvd*. Mr. David Wagley said he will make corrections to the BPAC list.

- b) **Annual BPAC Project List Prioritization** – Mr. David Wagley shared information listed on the handout *Lee County Staff Recommendations for 2024 BPAC Prioritization*. Mr. Wagley stated that in the fall of each year, BPAC prioritizes its list officially and adopts it for the Board’s consideration. Very early in the following calendar year, county staff from DOT work with administration. The following September is when the Board makes approvals. September is the initial discussion of the BPAC list and where it currently stands. Typically, BPAC will vote on it the following meeting, either October or November. The projects in Tom’s presentation weren’t official until the Board’s budget workshop on Tuesday, September 17, where they approved the budget for next fiscal year, so some of the projects will be moving from Tier 2 to Tier 1. There are a few changes that county staff are recommending to the BPAC list including combining Tice St and Lynedda Ave, renaming it Tice Elementary, and removing Gladiolus Dr from the BPAC list because the scope of this proposal would make it a major road project. These two recommendations could be voted on today.

*Updating of crashes has been added to the BPAC list.

*The projects without color in the cells have moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2.

Mr. Paul Cohen mentioned that 2 road impact fee districts were incorrect. Mr. David Wagley said he will make corrections to the color coding.

Mr. Derek Felder mentioned that Blackstone Dr & Rue Labeau Cir/Rue Labonne Rd have incorrect dates that they were added to the BPAC list. They should both have dates of 2024. Mr. Wagley will make the correction to the dates.

Mr. Pat Connor made a motion to combine Blackstone Dr & Rue Labeau Cir/Rue Labonne Rd from the BPAC list as one project, and to remove Gladiolus Dr from the BPAC list to wait upon street development. This was seconded by Mr. Derek Felder. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Mr. Wagley then reviewed the *Top Projects from BPAC Adopted Prioritization List from Tier 2*. These are the top two projects from each impact fee district. He showed each of these projects using Google Maps so that people in attendance could visualize the area being discussed. If a project comes in underbudget, the smaller projects can be completed using the leftover funds. The smaller projects on this list are easier to be added into the budget midyear.

Mr. Derek Felder asked if there is a way to identify the projects, if voted on and approved by the committee, so that we know they are in Tier 1 on next year’s BPAC list. He gave an example of using an asterisk. Mr. Wagley said he could add that to the BPAC list for the remaining BPAC meetings for this year.

Agenda Item #6: Member Comments:

- (a) Mr. David Wheaton shared that we have a new BPAC member, Mr. James Smith.
- (b) Mr. James Smith introduced himself. He prepared a handout containing his bike-ped experience. He also shared his work experience.
- (c) Mr. Pat Connor stated that he had questions about our new system. He said he thinks it would be a good idea to display projects by impact fee district.

Agenda Item #7: Staff Comments

- (a) Lee County Parks and Recreation - Brandon Kaczmarek shared they are about to be in procurement for the Able Canal and hiring a general contractor. They are looking at the beginning of next year to start construction.

There is also a Rails to Trails project in the works. Parks and Rec has been asked to look into what's going on and how their involvement can be included in this project.

- (b) LeeTran - Olivia Cassidy shared that they are working on the Lehigh Park & Ride, which should be done in March. They are also bringing back the downtown trolleys and beach trams. They are also working on bus stop improvements throughout the county.

Agenda Item #8: Other Government Entity Comments

No Comments

Agenda Item #9: Upcoming Meeting Items

Mr. David Wagley shared that there will be two sidewalk presentations during the October BPAC meeting. These presentations will include requests for sidewalks on Coolidge Ave and Grant Blvd.

Next Meeting date - **Wednesday, October 16, 2024.**

Adjournment

Mr. Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

G. D. Ubert

BPAC Chairman

11/20/2024

Date

Jane Bauer

BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

11-20-24

Date