

Minutes for RBAC Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

7:00 – 9:00 pm, virtual Webex meeting

In attendance online: *Wendy Aaronson, Bryan Barnett-Woods, Connie Bertka, Olivia Bobrowsky, Sophie Chan-Wood, Jake Jakubek, Eric Schwinder, Shannon Shea, Jonathan Solomon and Dave Stinchcomb.*

At 7:05 pm, Jake welcomed everyone and announced that this meeting will be recorded. He asked for an approval of minutes from the September meeting. Sophie motioned to approve; Wendy seconded with no objections.

Addendum to minutes:

Tour de Cookie (Jonathan Solomon)

- 1) The Tree House hosts a Champions Gala event for fundraising which is much less work than bike ride
- 2) Official answer from the Tree House said they are not going to pursue the Tour de Cookie event for now; looking for other ways to fundraise
- 3) Maybe looking for another organization to help with a signature bike ride in Rockville
- 4) Thanks to everyone in the group for their participation in making the Tour de Cookie a resounding success.

City Update (Bryan Barnett-Woods)

- 1) Bike Fix-it Racks will be installed in the next few weeks – two along CHMT; one in King Farm; one in Twinbrook in Rockcrest Park
- 2) Working with Julius West Middle School to provide bike parking racks; this school has an on-bike education program with the PE teacher; City has grant program to help maintain bikes that they can possibly apply for with the 50 bikes they have
- 3) Fleet and Monroe – shared use path/cyclepath – RFP for feasibility project will be ready by next meeting
- 4) Maryvale Park to RedGate Park path feasibility and design study – preparing a grant agreement with City
- 5) Research Blvd bike route feasibility project in works with a carbon reduction grant through the State
- 6) Congressional Lane improvements - sharrows from Rollins and E Jefferson will be added later this year; bike lane next year between E Jefferson and 355
- 7) Traffic calming improvements added to Mannakee Street; shared roadway markings in residential area will be added in fall; section between Nelson and Rockville Pike for a separated bike lane will take some time after the roadway is fixed
- 8) Redland Blvd is repurposed outside travel lanes to be parking lanes; sharrow not approved due to temporary nature of project; car traffic is slower
- 9) Letter to support RBH with a permanent home at King Farm Homestead – Olivia motioned to approve letter as amended; Jonathan seconded to send final version to Mayor and City Council. Jake encouraged others to write individually to council members for this support too.

2025 Bike Rides (Sophie Chan-Wood)

- 1) Past weekend was Carl Henn Memorial Ride started at Thomas Farm Community Center with Wendy leading and Mark sweeping – but not as well attended as Tuesday evening rides
- 2) Propose a survey to send out to Meetups members to gauge their interests:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJpmQ-yD4T7ZAIDZPJzvNBQ7HAg-hWg6SIMqugWcE5nUehTQ/viewform?usp=dialog>
- 3) Possible outside person may be interested in organizing Rockville Bike Party rides in the future
- 4) Upcoming Sunday, 11/2 haunted history ride starting possibly at Trek; and on Sunday, 11/16 an escorted group to Ride For Your Life start riding from Twinbrook Metro
[\[https://waba.org/event/ride-for-your-life-2025/\]](https://waba.org/event/ride-for-your-life-2025/)
- 5) Olivia proposed membership payment reminder in April to start/celebrate Bike Month to help encourage non-members to pay or put in credit card for Meetup
- 6) Suggest sending survey at the end of the year along with holiday wishes and for planning for next year's rides.

Family Biking Festival (Shannon Brescher Shea)

- 1) WABA is giving Shannon an award for all her work at the Family Festival. They appreciated the different audience from those attending the Montgomery County Bike Summits in the past. WABA Awards is on Wednesday, 10/15 -
<https://waba.org/event/2025-waba-awards/>
- 2) Three out of 5 bike shops attended with lots of bikes to test; Olivia provided feedback that parents and kids really enjoyed testing the cargo rides
- 3) All organizations who attended were happy with turnout (surprised Montgomery County Parks and Recreation did not attend)
- 4) Different from DC Family Bike Festival – bike decorating station was popular along with helmet decorating (thanks to Shannon's mom) – speakers included 4 City Councilmembers and County representatives and Jake introduced them
- 5) Will reach out to WABA about a date for next year in September
- 6) Received 9 suggestions in Suggestion Box – will forward to Bryan and others as needed
- 7) Kudos to Olivia for coordinating the printing of RBAC postcards – Jake will help distribute extra cards to those who want them

RBAC Outreach Project (Olivia Bobrowsky)

- 1) Jake was advised that for a podcast to be successful, he should not only to promote RBAC and what the committee does but have a theme – i.e. providing safe streets for everyone and include data and metrics (from Bryan)
- 2) Jonathan suggested promoting biking by encouraging people to return to cycling within their comfort levels, including what types of infrastructure that they would ride – include the WABA learn to ride adult classes that has been promoted with the County.

- 3) Olivia suggested distributing RBAC postcards at local places, like bike shops, community centers and local gyms – As cyclists, we can use RBAC as our business card to hand out.
- 4) Sophie suggested maybe the City can print a postcard with a QR code to the map online – Or can we put a link to the bike map on the RBAC web page?

Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee Update (Dave Stinchcomb)

- 1) October is Walktober Month – Thursday 10/16 at 6 pm with a Walk and Roll event at Wade Ave and Crawford Drive – Candlelight Vigil at City Hall on Thursday, 10/30 at 7 pm to honor victims of traffic violence

Other Business (Jake Jakubek)

- 1) Max's discussion on the Trader Joe entrance will be tabled to next meeting
- 2) Shannon suggested outreach to other groups like civic community associations or home owner associations to hear their input or suggestions for improvements; especially if they can't come or not want to attend an RBAC meeting; PTAs may be other groups to connect with
- 3) Shannon can start a Google doc spreadsheet for RBAC people to sign-up to attend these meetings. Bryan can probably provide a list of these groups.
- 4) Outreach messaging will need to be clear and defined. Having an outline or standard script/notes for RBAC reps to ask for input at these meetings.
- 5) Elections coming up at our in-person December meeting – if you know anyone who is interested in the Chair or Vice Chair positions, please let Bryan know.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Chan-Wood

Hon. Mayor Ashton
Rockville Bike Hub Permanent Location
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October 8, 2025

Hon. Monique Ashton, Mayor
City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RE: Rockville Bike Hub

Dear Mayor Ashton and Members of the Rockville City Council,

The Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC) strongly supports providing the Rockville Bike Hub (RBH) a permanent location at the King Farm Farmstead. The RBH plays a key role to advance Rockville's sustainability, safety, equity, and community goals.

While RBAC is a separate entity from RBH, both groups are dedicated to helping people ride bicycles in Rockville for all purposes. RBAC and RBH recognize bicycling as a more healthful, environmentally sustainability, and fiscally inclusive mode of transportation. In addition to managing and carrying out the City's TERRIFIC Kids program, in which Rockville students are awarded bicycles for volunteering in the community, RBH provides space and tools for residents to repair their own bicycles and teaches cyclists how to use those tools and fix bicycles. This skillset helps foster independence among Rockville youth and adults, and helps individuals in the community overcome transportation barriers.

RBH is a non-profit community bike shop that operates out of a small facility on Lewis Avenue, but the community demand for their service exceeds the space available. Moreover, a non-permanent location prevents RBH from providing continuous service to Rockville.

A permanent location at the King Farm Farmstead would not only provide the space necessary to meet the community's needs, but also expand the types of education programming that could be offered. RBH has helped countless people to continue riding in Rockville, and this opportunity will help RBH continue to work in the community.

Please feel free to contact me should you want to further discuss RBH and its beneficial contributions to the City of Rockville.

Sincerely,

Jake Jakubek, Chair
Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee

CC: Tara Stewart, Director of Recreation and Parks
James Woods, Acting Director of Public Works