



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff

PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 10, 2013
4:30 pm

City Hall, Council Conference Room
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Kim Austin, Co-Chair
Heather Taylor, Co-Chair
Georgia Duncan, Vice Chair
Cecile LeBlanc
Jim Tuck

Members absent:

Joyce Browning

One vacancy

The following City staff was present:

Tom Boughner, Code Enforcement
Martin Ince, Multimodal Planner

Others present:

Angela Horvath, County Health Department
Elana Snyder

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Tuck reported that he spoke to Roger Eastman and learned that the Council may no longer pursue changes to restrictions on temporary signs on sidewalks, following an appearance by the Disability Awareness Commission at the Council meeting.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Boughner reported that 103 sidewalk complaints had been received for the winter so far, but that violations may be under-reported. They are still encouraging citizens to file complaints for blocked sidewalks, since the enforcement effort is complaint-driven. There are still some issues with Public Works placing trash and recycling cans back on the sidewalk after they are emptied.

Ms. Snyder told the Committee that she is going without a car, and documenting her experiences with the pedestrian environment. She said that the situation for pedestrians in Flagstaff is dismal, and that she often feels endangered. She reported that she has been hit by a bicyclist, and that she knows of several other people who have been hit as well.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Tuck made, and Ms. LeBlanc seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- Regular meeting of August 9, 2012
- Special meeting of August 30, 2012
- Regular meeting of October 11, 2012
- Regular meeting of November 8, 2012
- Regular meeting of December 13, 2012

The motion was approved unanimously (5-0)

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Designated school drop-off locations

Co-chair Taylor presented an initiative from the County Health Department to designate formal off-site school drop-off locations, from which students would walk the rest of the way to the school. She said they were considering asking the school district to require parents to drop their kids at off-site locations, to encourage walking. She reported that other districts have adopted similar policies, but has not found any communities where it is required.

She said they were asking the district to try a pilot program at one school, and would be presenting to FUSD's wellness committee on January 30 at 4:00 pm.

The Committee discussed several aspects of the idea:

- Would there be exceptions in the case of inclement weather
- If the district requires remote drop-off, are there liability concerns for the school district if a student is injured on a sidewalk away from school property

- A few locations for potential drop-offs have been identified, but finding a good location at Cromer School and Sechrist School has been challenging
- Younger children may need teachers and/or aides to walk with them
- If the program is voluntary, there is a concern that the program will not be used

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Sidewalk inventory and prioritization project

The Committee reviewed the weighting criteria that resulted from the constant sum-paired comparison exercise, which asked the Committee to rate each factor against all the other factors, and made several comments:

- The Committee thought that proximity to transit stops would be rated higher
- Commercial density is weighed as less important than employment density
- Institutional density seems somewhat low
- The number of households without access to a vehicle might be rated higher
- The absence of sidewalks should be a more important factor

The Committee decided to wait to see the final results of the prioritization process before making any adjustments to individual factors and weighting.

2. Cityscape articles

The Committee discussed several ideas for a pedestrian-related article in the next issue of Cityscape. Children's health was mentioned as a potential theme. Co-chair Austin said that she had several articles on this topic, which she would provide to Mr. Ince for distribution to the Committee.

3. Draft ADOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The Committee asked Mr. Ince to find the deadline for submitting comments on the draft plan. If the deadline is after the next PAC meeting, the PAC can submit comments as a group. Otherwise comments can be submitted by individuals on the Committee. The Committee also asked Mr. Ince to re-forward the link to the draft plan.

4. Regional Plan 2012 – review of Circulation Element

There was no discussion on this item.

5. Flagstaff Walks!

The Committee recapped events from 2012 Flagstaff Walks!:

Science in the Park

- More than 300 visitors stopped by the booth
- Kids seemed to like the display
- The give-aways, and a good location, helped boost visitation
- Overall was a success, and should be included in this year's events

Community Market

- The poster of events and the poster of Safekid's walking tips worked well
- A banner would be helpful
- An EZup would have been helpful as well
- Jack Welch staged one walk from the booth, which visited downtown murals
- This event should be kept, including a Jack's walk if he is willing

International Walk to School Day

- A record number of students participated in 2012
- Crossing guard appreciation should be kept as part of this event

15 Minute Makeover

- More public involvement should be encouraged
- The PAC should have reflective vests

Safe Routes to School Workshop

- This event was cancelled in 2012, and may no longer be an option, depending on what happens with ADOT's Safe Routes to School program

Progressive Breakfast

- Would be okay as a PAC-only event

The Committee also discussed the possibility of hosting events throughout the year under the Flagstaff Walks! title. Information about Flagstaff Walks! should be included in the Cityscape article.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There was no discussion on the Reports, which were included in the PAC packet.

2. Announcements

There were no Concluding Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.