



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff

PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 12, 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 4:39 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Kim Austin, Co-Chair
Heather Taylor, Co-Chair
Georgia Duncan, Vice Chair
Joyce Browning
Jim Tuck

Members absent:

Cecile LeBlanc

One vacancy

The following City staff was present:

Martin Ince, Multimodal Planner
Cindy Perger, Code Enforcement

Others present:

Jim McCarthy
Justin Pryzby

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

2. Public Comment

Justin Pryzby provided information on the status of a number of blocked sidewalks that he reported as violations to the City some months ago. He provided copies of photos depicting the blockages.

Jim McCarthy said that his wife uses a wheelchair and has trouble when the sidewalk is blocked.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Tuck made, and Ms. Duncan seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2013. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Sidewalk encroachment ordinance

Mr. Ince made a presentation on proposed revisions to the City's sidewalk encroachment ordinance. He said that staff had sought preliminary guidance from the City Council in October. Following review by the PAC, the revisions would go to the Transportation Commission in February, then to the City Council for approval. The revisions could be in place by spring of 2014.

The Committee had a number of questions and made a number of comments:

- In a number of downtown locations, the sidewalk around tree wells has heaved and created an uneven surface. The Committee discussed whether uneven surfaces should be taken into consideration in the ordinance, and possibly included in the definition of an obstruction. The Committee also recommended including wording regarding "surface suitable for use by a wheelchair or a walker." In addition, the opening in a tree well, in addition to the tree, should also be considered an obstruction.
- The Committee asked if previously-permitted sidewalk cafés that do meet the proposed standards would be grandfathered.
- The revisions indicate that the permit is good for a year; is this intended to be seasonal so cafés are closed during the winter.
- There was a discussion regarding the requirement for a barrier to enclose a sidewalk café, and the Committee reached a consensus that a barrier should be required. Without a barrier, it would be difficult to measure the Clear Pedestrian Zone, and there is a concern that tables and chairs would "migrate" out from the permitted area.

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- The Committee recommended a requirement that barrier railings meet ADA standards, and asked if current railings meet ADA.

Cindy Perger, with the City's code enforcement program, explained the general process for enforcement, including working with permittees on compliance and issuing citations. The Committee recommended revising the ordinance to clearly describe the process for issuing citations and dealing with violations.

2. Flagstaff Walks!

This item was tabled to the January meeting.

3. City property inventory

As a follow-up to discussion at the October meeting, Mr. Ince provided a table that describes the City Council's guidance for the future use of 17 City-owned parcels. For the most part, the Council's guidance was in line with the PAC's recommendations.

4. Sidewalk inventory and prioritization process

Mr. Ince said there would be more information available to the January meeting. The Committee asked about the relationship between the sidewalk information and the potential street maintenance bond.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Regular meeting dates for 2014

A schedule of regular meeting dates for 2014 was provided in the PAC's packet.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

The Committee reviewed the list of projects/programs under Reports:

- Pedestrian and bicycle crash data – Mare Schumacher from the County Public Health District has put together a presentation that include data on helmet use and bicycle crashes
- Designated school drop-off zones – is still pending with FUSD

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- Route 66/Sitgreaves sidewalk ramp – is complete and can be removed from the list
- Electric bicycles – the Committee asked if Segways are addressed in state law

2. Announcements

Mr. Tuck asked if it would be possible to hear about the Localeikki project from Tracy McMillan, and would like to discuss possible time limits during Public Comment.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.