

Approved by PAC
3-12-2015



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 12, 2015 | 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
Joyce Browning
Georgia Duncan
Adam Langford
Jim Tuck

Members absent:

Heather Taylor, co-chair
Cecile LeBlanc

The following City staff was present:

Tom Boughner, Community Code Compliance
Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Jennifer Mikelson, Comprehensive Planning

Others present:

Denise Wynne
Jack Welch

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. Duncan said she was without a car for several weeks and had to rely on the bus system. She said she found it very convenient to use.

Ms. Austin presented a photo of an incorrect traffic sign at the corner of Lone Tree and Pine Knoll. Mr. Ince said he would take the photo to the City's Traffic Section.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Wynne introduced herself to the Committee.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Duncan moved, and Mr. Langford seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2015. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian master plan

Mr. Ince handed out copies of an outline for public participation, and asked the committee to review it in advance of the next meeting.

2. Sidewalk encroachment permits, safe sidewalk program

Mr. Boughner provided information to the Committee on sidewalk encroachment permits and the safe sidewalks program.

He said that a total of 16 sidewalk café encroachment permits have been issued for the downtown area, and that all of them are meeting minimum dimensional requirements. Some other applications were not approved because they could not meet minimum dimensions. He said they will be monitoring “pinch points” closely, and would like to hear of any concerns or possible violations from the Committee. He presented a copy of the rules for sidewalk cafes, most of which have to do with meeting minimum dimensions. He also reported that the City was charging cafes based on the square footage of the encroachment.

Mr. Boughner also provided the Committee with a copy of the regulations for temporary signs, which were recently adopted by Council. A-frame signs are not allowed downtown, although businesses there can use stanchion-type signs.

For the Safe Sidewalk program, a total of 60 complaints have been filed so far this winter for snow removal, and a total of 97 for non-snow obstructions.

There was a short discussion about enforcement procedures.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Plan

Ms. Mikelson made a presentation to the Committee on the process to adopt a neighborhood plan for La Plaza Vieja. A draft neighborhood plan was created several years ago; the current process will update the plan to bring it into compliance with the regional Plan and the Zoning Code's standards for a neighborhood plan.

She reported that three workshops were recently conducted for the plan, one regarding land use, one regarding transportation issues, and a third that was a general open house. The transportation open house covered three topics, the possible extension of Clay Avenue, traffic issues on Milton, Butler, and Route 66, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities and crossings.

She presented maps that were used for the transportation open house, including a map depicting existing and missing bike lanes, sidewalks, and FUTS trails, and a map showing six potential pedestrian/bike crossings along the BNSF tracks, Milton and Route 66.

Mr. Langford asked if information were available on the number of incidents involving pedestrian crashes and trespassing on the BNSF tracks. He said that a bridge over Milton would make the downtown transfer center much more convenient to the neighborhood.

Ms. Mikelson explained the options for the Clay Avenue extension, and said that the planning process is starting a discussion with the neighborhood about the costs and benefits of the extension. City staff is also running traffic simulations to better understand traffic issues. Additional traffic will affect the neighborhood, but there may be ways to mitigate the impacts with improved streetscaping and other pedestrian amenities. To some extent there is a dichotomy between neighborhood concerns and regional traffic issues.

Clay Avenue and Blackbird Roost might also include the Route 7 bus line in the future. There is also an option that the extension of Clay Avenue could be for buses and bikes only.

Ms. Mikelson reported that the neighborhood is supportive of a pedestrian crossing at Route 66 and Blackbird Roost. The Committee wondered if ADOT would be supportive of a pedestrian signal at that location.

2. Mayor's Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets

Mr. Ince provided information on the Mayor's Challenge program from Secretary of Transportation Foxx. The Committee reviewed the 7 action steps highlighted in the program.

The Committee wondered if the seven activities would help advance Flagstaff from bronze to gold designation as a Walk Friendly Community. The Committee then reviewed the feedback document from the City's Walk Friendly Community application, and identified three area of overlap between the feedback and the seven activities of the Challenge:

- Complete Streets
- Biking and walking data
- Education and enforcement
- Completing pedestrian/bike networks through maintenance

Following a brief discussion, the Committee asked if Mr. Ince would forward a request to the City Manager to find out if the Mayor would be willing to promote the City's participation in the program and what the necessary procedural steps would be to participate in the Challenge.

The Committee discussed some of the challenges related to education. Flagstaff no longer has a television station, but NAU is doing some interesting things to promote safe walking and biking on campus. The Committee wondered if some of the education activities on campus could be replicated in the larger community. Are there simple opportunities for education that could be done easily; it is better to make some effort for education, even if it is small, than to do nothing at all.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There was no discussion or action on the Reports.

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.