



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff

PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 9, 2014
4:30 pm

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Kim Austin, co-chair
Heather Taylor, co-chair
Joyce Browning
Georgia Duncan
Adam Langford
Cecile LeBlanc
Jim Tuck

Members absent:

None

The following City staff was present:

Kevin Burke, city manager
Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Stephanie Smith, assistant to the city manager
Stephanie Stearns, Montoya Fellowship intern

Others present:

Jack Welch
Dustin Woodman, Coconino County Public Works
Susan Zucker

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I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. Austin relayed concerns she has heard about the crosswalk on Cedar Avenue in front of MEMS, that kids are not pushing the button to activate the light. She said she thought it would be a good project for kids for the spring.

Mr. Tuck said that the candlesticks are obscuring pedestrians at the two new crossings on Fourth Street.

Ms. Taylor reported that Ms. Austin's Safe Routes to School position would be funded through 2015.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Welch said that the walking group at the Adult Center recognized the crossing guards at Marshall School this month during Flagstaff Walks!.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Austin made, and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2014. The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian master planning process

Ms. Stearns reported that the survey has been closed, and the results were being compiled. A total of 458 responses were received. She presented some preliminary results.

The Committee considered that the responses to the question, "what could be done to improve walking in Flagstaff" will include a lot of valuable information. The Committee asked if they could see the raw responses to this question.

2. Flagstaff Walks!

The Committee discussed events from the recently-concluded Flagstaff Walks!:

Festival of Science

- Did not have a good location for the booth; too far away from the middle
- Can ask for a better location at next year's sign-up
- The activity worked well

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Community Market

- Works well, should be repeated
- FUTS map/plan should be included

Jacks Walks

- Were all very successful
- Participation was 8 for the PAWS walk, 26 for the mural walk, and 17 for the peace walk

Breakfast Walk

- Well attended and starting to be a nice tradition
- Need to plan the route in advance, and include a short educational component

Geocaching

- Mr. Tuck said it may be growing and would like to do it again

Accessibility Audit

- Mr. Tuck is inclined not to repeat this event
- Lot of good information, but does not seem to be an effective way to get it out
- Future education could focus on how to report problems

International Walk to School Day

- Results have not been compiled
- Karin Eberhard will send out photos of the event
- All FUSD schools were included
- Anecdotally, it seemed that more parents were involved

Crossing Guard Appreciation

- Gifts were presented to most guards
- Need to prepare resolution in advance for next year

Cityscape

- Schedule needs to be set in advance to meet printing deadlines

Try Transit

- NAIPTA should be involved earlier in the planning process
- May be other options, like free day vouchers

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposition 406

Mr. Burke from the City of Flagstaff made an informational presentation on Proposition 406, which will create a sales tax to fund street repair. He said that the tax would raise about \$100 million over 20 years. Streets are a core City function and essential to the economy. Unfortunately the financing system is broken, and as a result, budget available to keep streets in good repair has been reduced. The longer we wait to fix the problem, the more costly it will be.

He reported that about 15 percent of street repair funding goes to fixing adjacent sidewalks, curb ramps, and curb and gutter. Adjacent sidewalks would be fixed as part of this bond, and some money would be used to close the funding gap for the Florence-Walnut underpass.

The Committee asked what projects are included in the bike/ped safety portion of the proposed bond. Mr. Burke answered that the bond money would be used to repair existing sidewalks, but not add new sidewalks. He said that installing some missing sidewalks was recommended by the Citizen's Committee, but the Council was concerned that the total cost and the tax were getting too large.

Mr. Woodman of Coconino County's Public Works Department gave a corresponding presentation on the County's Proposition 403, which would create a new sales tax to pay for street maintenance and operations. He said that the County also used a citizen's committee, as well as focus groups and surveys, and that the tax increase will be mitigated somewhat by the expiration of the County's parks and open space tax. The County maintains about 300 miles of roads owned by the Coconino National Forest, and another 150 miles of Bureau of Indian Affairs roads.

Mr. Woodman answered several questions from the Committee:

- ADOT roads are not included in the proposition, but the funding may help leverage more state funds in our area.
- Flagstaff residents will vote on both Proposition 403 and 406, but County residents will have only Proposition 403 on their ballot.
- The City and the County do not currently share equipment, although they are willing to look into opportunities. Much of the specialized equipment is contracted out.
- The County is looking into ways to pool funds for joint projects with the City, but the bulk of the funding will be used on County roads outside the City.

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- Widening the shoulder of the Mormon Lake loop road is planned to accommodate bicyclists.

2. Downtown Flagstaff Walking Map

Mr. Ince showed the Committee a draft downtown walking map.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There was no discussion on the Reports.

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.