



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff

PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 13, 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 4:33 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:

Karl Eberhard, Community Design and Redevelopment Planner
Martin Ince, Multimodal Planner
Adam Langford, FMPO Intern
Jennifer Mikelson, Associate Planner

Others present:

None

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Tuck reported that NAU's CDAD is working on a map and an app that shows accessible routes. A "Philosophy of Disability" class is planned for NAU this fall. Ms. Austin said that plans are underway for the Pine Knoll FUTS Trail. The principal helped lay out a walking path that connects the school with the trail.

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2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Duncan made, and Mr. Tuck seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of February 13, 2014, with several changes. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Regional Plan 2030

Jennifer Mikelson with the comprehensive planning section gave a presentation on the Regional Plan and the process for adoption. She said the plan is aspirational and includes high-level goals and policies. Master plans and specific plans are expected to provide more detailed planning. She said the plan has been approved by the Council, but must be ratified by the voters at a special election on May 20. If the plan is not adopted by the voters, they will go back to the public to determine why it was not approved.

2. Sidewalk inventory and prioritization process – pedestrian crossings

Mr. Ince described the work of the citizen's committee that is examining a potential bond for street maintenance. The PAC reviewed potential locations for crossing improvements and made the following comments:

- The crossing that serves deMiguel School at University Heights Drive should have crosswalks on both sides of the intersection. There was a question about whether the crossing was close enough to the school to qualify as a school crossing.
- The problems with pedestrian crossings on Fourth Street are mainly at the north end, and related to North Country Health Care.
- There is also a problem along Cedar caused by the shopping center and the location of bus stops some distance from the intersection with West.
- There seem to be few issues with illegal crossings on I-40, unlike the railroad tracks.
- At the Humphreys and Butler crossing, the Committee discussed whether pedestrians know to push the button again when they reach the middle of the crossing. The possibility of an automatic activation in the middle was discussed.

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Pedestrians are also not able to see if the flashing light has been activated, at least with the older style lights.

3. Flagstaff Walks!

Jack Welch has indicated that he is willing to participate, and could attend the April meeting.

The Committee expressed a desire to have an insert in the next edition of Cityscape. The schedule of events needs to be set prior to the next Cityscape deadline.

4. Review of meeting procedures and public participation in commission discussions

The Committee suggested that a simple paragraph be included on the PAC's agenda to inform the public of the Committee's rules and expectations. Mr. Ince said he would bring a draft to the next meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Downtown business district

Karl Eberhard described the history, purpose, and process for establishing a downtown business district. He said the district has voted to tax themselves to pay for an increased level of service, and that the district has been approved by the City Council, but that there still needs to be an election of property owners and residents of the district. The City and the County, which are significant property owners in the district, have agreed to pay the equivalent of property taxes even though it is not required. Currently the district has no authority over services currently provided by the City, but in the future the district could request authority to take over the services.

A discussion with the Committee ensued, and several questions and comments were made:

- There was a question about the status of encroachment permits, sidewalk maintenance, and accessible parking. These things would remain with the City for the time being, but in the future the district may seek authority over them.
- Mr. Eberhard said that in other communities with downtown districts, there are rarely conflicts between the district's interest and the public interest.
- Other successful examples include Tempe and Santa Barbara.

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- Currently downtown merchants have an advisory role over downtown events, including street closures. In the future the district can ask for complete authority over the permitting process for events.

Mr. Eberhard said that he is currently acting as downtown liaison; otherwise the City acts like any other property owner. The boundaries of the district were originally conceived as extending from Columbus to Butler, but there was not agreement among property owners in the larger district.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

The Committee discussed the status of the vacancy and suggested exploring groups at NAU for possible new members, including the Environmental Caucus, CDAD, the school of public health, and the nursing school. The Committee also asked about term limits for existing committee members.

2. Announcements

Ms. Taylor and Ms. Austin said they would be out of town for the April meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.