



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff

PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 12, 2009
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:

Georgia Duncan, Chair
Kim Austin
Joyce Browning
Sharon Grasso
Cecile LeBlanc
Rebecca Snow
Heather Taylor

Members absent:

None

The following City staff was present:

Roger Eastman, Zoning Code Administrator
Martin Ince, Multimodal Planner

Others present:

Susan Bischoff
John Johnson

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Discussion only, no action taken.

2. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

3. Approval Of Minutes

Ms. Taylor made, and Ms. Grasso seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 10, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Downtown FUTS and Underpass Plan

Mr. Ince presented the latest plan for FUTS trails and underpasses in downtown Flagstaff. He said the plan has been adapted to meet the requirements of the BNSF railroad.

The Committee discussed its concerns that the underpasses be designed for safety.

There was a brief discussion regarding school children in neighborhoods on the south side of the tracks, who will be able to use the underpass to walk or bike to Flagstaff Middle School and Flagstaff High School.

The Committee expressed its support for the project, and believes it will be extremely beneficial as a stand-alone project.

III. OLD BUSINESS

2. Pedestrian Awareness Week

The Committee recapped last October's Pedestrian Awareness Week.

Ms. LeBlanc said that she feels very passionately about walking as an alternative form of transportation. She has put a lot of thought into improving the week, and has taken comments about it to heart. She thinks that a different name may help promote the event and make its purpose more clear. She suggested "Flagstaff Walks!" as an option.

There was a desire to close one of the downtown streets for the first Friday Art Walk, and to use it as the kick-off event for the week.

In some areas of the City walking is a necessity rather than a luxury. Along Fourth Street, for example, walking is sometimes a primary mode of transportation. The Committee saw benefits in providing support and information in these areas.

Ms. Austin reported that they are planning to conduct International Walk to School Day differently. Participating schools will be given support, but will have more responsibility for doing things for themselves. The goal is to make the program become more sustainable in the long term. A contract will be used to spell out roles and responsibilities.

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Ms. Austin reported that teachers and kids seem to like the event; she is considering attending a principal's meeting to request their support.

Ms. Snow said that the successes should be publicized. Articles and events should be timed throughout the year; and the Committee should start planning for the event earlier.

Ms. Taylor suggested using Bike to Work Week as an example, and engaging larger businesses that have wellness programs.

There was a consensus on the Committee to change the name to "Flagstaff Walks!" and to pursue closure of a downtown street for the First Friday Art walk kick-off event.

This year's event will begin on Friday, October 1, 2010. International Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 6, 2010.

The Committee felt that planning for the event may be a major component of their work program.

3. Election of Officers

Ms. Grasso made, and Ms. LeBlanc seconded, a motion to elect Ms. Taylor and Ms. Austin as co-chairs, and Ms. Duncan as vice chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Pedestrian Facilities Inventory

This item was held over to the next meeting.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

Mr. Eastman provided an update on the process to update the City's zoning code. He provided a tentative schedule for the process, including release of a public draft on May 31, 2010, a formal presentation to the City Council on June 8, adoption in October, and 3 to 6 months for implementation.

He said he is looking for assistance from the PAC, including reviewing standards for public thoroughfares.

Mr. Ince reported that the Fourth Street – South corridor study is considering roundabouts at Soliere and Sparrow.

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2. Announcements

There were no announcements.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm.