



# MINUTES

## City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:30 pm Thursday, December 11, 2008

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

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

One vacancy

Members absent:

None

The following City staff was present:

Tom Boughner, Environmental Services  
Trevor Cooper, Flagstaff Police Department  
Martin Ince, Multi-Modal Planner  
Kevin Mullaney, Public Works  
Stephanie Smith, Sustainability Program

Others present:

Gerry Craig  
Freddie Steele  
Jack Welch

### **I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **1. Announcements**

The two new members of the of the PAC, the existing members, City staff, and visitors all introduced themselves.

Chair Duncan mentioned a website called "Walkscore" which calculates a walkability score for an address you enter.

Ms. Taylor indicated that the County Safe Kids has submitted a Safe Routes to School grant application to keep their program going.

**2. Public Comment**

Mr. Welch informed the Committee that the City Council is considering a mandatory bicycle helmet ordinance for children under 18. He invited the group to attend the City Council meeting on December 13.

**3. Approval Of Minutes**

Ms. Taylor made, and Ms. Grasso seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, 2008. The motion was approved unanimously.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Snow Removal and Sidewalk Maintenance**

Kevin Mullaney with the City's Public Works Division made a presentation on snow plowing. He reviewed the Council-established priorities for snow removal, and provided a variety of statistics, including the number of plows and operators and the number of lane-miles plowed. He also mentioned a courtesy snow bank removal program operated by the City's Parks Division.

Mr. Mullaney indicated policies for plowing snow on sidewalks – plow drivers are to drive no faster than 25 mph, which is the minimum speed necessary to shed snow from the blade, and drivers are instructed not to plow further in than the curb line. He said temporary drivers need to be taught, and there is a learning curve.

Regarding the chemical de-icer, the City ran out last year but have ordered more for this year. The effects of de-icer are monitored by Environmental Services, which found few negative environmental impacts. Mr. Mullaney mentioned that ADOT uses the de-icer more heavily, and based on observation he believes the de-icer has caused some trees to die.

Ms. Taylor asked about community feedback and said she thought it worked very well in her neighborhood.

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Chair Duncan asked if the program would be expanded. Mr. Mullaney responded that 34 miles of street would be added this year, including connecting routes and new streets in the east Flagstaff traffic interchange.

There was a brief discussion about the impacts of cinders and the implications of this year's budgetary restraints.

Stephanie Smith and Tom Boughner gave a presentation on the City's Safe Sidewalks Program.

Ms. Smith said the main focus of the program is outreach and education, and the goal is voluntary compliance. She said part of the program's philosophy is recognizing those who do a good job. She provided recognition "thank you" cards provided to residents who have done a good job clearing their sidewalks.

She described the enforcement process, which involves working directly with property owners as a first point of contact. The second step is issuing a Notice of Violation that gives owners some time to comply. The final step is having City crews remove the snow and then charges the owner.

Mr. Welch asked about the source of complaints. Ms. Smith replied that almost all of the complaints are received by citizens.

Ms. Smith provided some statistics on enforcement activities, which included 365 complaints, 79 Notices of Violation, and 4 cases where the owners were charged for having the City doing the clearing. She said the compliance rate in each case was very high, and they considered it a success.

She said some challenges include last year's extreme weather, the high volume of complaints, the lack of staff resources, and the lack of assistance for residents who are unable to clear their snow.

Ms. Smith highlighted some recent changes to Title 8 of the City Code, which include increasing the time period for compliance from 6 hours to 24 hours, specifying that curb ramps must also be cleared, specifying that the entire width of the sidewalk must be cleared, and changing the definition of accumulation to make it clear that snow can come from any source.

There was a discussion about overgrown vegetation blocking the sidewalk. Ms. Smith said that City Code does not allow them to issue Notices of Violation, so they rely on outreach and education. Cases can be pursued, but the police have to be involved and it is not prosecuted using City ordinances.

She also said that a local ordinance will be addressed through a proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance.

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There was a discussion about the concept of promoting neighbors helping neighbors. Ms. Browning mentioned that crews from Tunland Corp can be hired for a small fee. Ms. Smith said she likes the idea but promoting it is not a role the City can take.

### **2. FUTS Signing**

Mr. Ince presented a brief outline of the latest plans for the FUTS signing program. Ms Austin asked if directional signs could be used to help users connect between nearby FUTS trails.

## **IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. Reports**

No reports were provided.

### **2. Concluding Announcements**

There were no concluding announcements.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.