



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:30 pm Thursday, June 12, 2008

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
Sharon Grasso
Heather Taylor
Kathie Oehme
Cynthia White

Members absent:

Jim Tuck

The following City staff was present:

Trevor Cooper, Flagstaff Police Department
Gerry Craig, Traffic Manager
Martin Ince, Multi-Modal Planner

Others present:

Jack Welch

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Cynthia White and Kim Austin introduced themselves as new members of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Kim is the Safe Routes to School Coordinator for Coconino County; and Cynthia is the new executive director for Friends of Flagstaff's Future.

Trevor Cooper announced that his official duties will now include attending the PAC meetings.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Approval Of Minutes

Sharon Grasso made, and Kathie Oehme seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 8, 2008. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Enforcement Strategies

Ms. Austin presented a draft copy of a brochure to encourage safe use of sidewalks and to discourage sidewalk cycling downtown. She said a map of the downtown area, showing streets where sidewalk riding was prohibited, would be included on the reverse side.

The Committee reviewed the draft and offered the following comments and suggestions:

- All caps should not be used.
- The phrase should be reworded to “keep you and your bike” in good condition.
- The word “downtown” in the title should be more visible.
- The County Safekids Coalition will be an official partner; they may have money for printing.
- Logos and other icons might be used, but there may not be enough room without eliminating text.
- Pictures are good if they reduce the amount of text needed.
- The brochure should say specifically that it is illegal to ride on sidewalks in the downtown area.
- Contact info for the BAC, PAC, and Safekids Coalition will be included on the brochure.

There was a discussion about distribution of the brochures, including giving them to NAU students, making them available at businesses downtown, especially bike shops, providing them to NAU’s parking services and police, and having Tony Ryan, the Police Department’s downtown beat officer, hand them out.

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The PAC decided to bring a revised copy of the brochure to the July meeting for a final discussion. The brochure would be also be reviewed by the Bicycle Advisory Committee at their July meeting. Any comments in the meantime would be sent to Heather Taylor in advance of the meeting. It is the Committee's intent to have the brochure ready in time for the opening of school in August.

Ms. Grasso presented a draft letter to the Traffic Commission regarding enforcement. The Committee discussed the appropriate way to forward information and its recommendation to the Traffic Commission, the Police Department, and the City Council.

The Committee also asked about the process for collecting double fines for violations in school zones.

Trevor Cooper informed the PAC that the department's current policy was to issue a citation automatically when drivers are 5 miles per hour or more over the speed limit, which is 15 in a school zone. He also indicated that even when citations are issued, they are frequently dismissed in court.

There was a discussion about how to collect information on the percentage of school zone citations that are dismissed by the courts. A meeting was suggested to remind judges in traffic court of the importance of enforcing speeding laws in school zones. At the conclusion of the discussion it was decided that Officer Cooper would get information on the number of citations that were issued in school zones for the last few years, and Ms. Taylor would talk to the courts about getting data on the number of citations that were dismissed for the same time period.

Ms. Oehme moved, and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion to prepare a letter on City letterhead for Chair Duncan's signature, addressed the Chief of Police and municipal court judges, with the PAC's recommendations for enforcement of speeding violations in school zones. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Encouragement Strategies

Mr. Ince provided samples of walking maps from other communities. There was a discussion of the intent, audience, and format of a potential walking map for Flagstaff. In lieu of a map that indicates planned routes to specific attractions, the Committee opted for a map of the downtown area that allows users to select their own routes.

The geographic boundaries would include the north end of NAU, the Visitor's Center, downtown, the public library, Thorpe Park, and FMC.

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It was agreed that the PAC should partner with the Visitor's Center.

Mr. Ince offered to bring a draft map to the next meeting. Jack Welch said he would contact the Visitor's Center.

2. Sechrist School Plans

The Committee reviewed plans for modifications to modify bus lanes and pick-up and drop-off areas at the front of Sechrist School. The proposed plans include a raised pedestrian island to allow safer crossings of Fort Valley Road.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There was no discussion on the reports.

2. Concluding Announcements

There were no concluding announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.