



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:30 pm Thursday, December 13, 2007

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Georgia Duncan, Chair
Sharon Grasso
Mike McDonald
Kathie Oehme
Heather Taylor
Jim Tuck

Members absent:

None (one vacancy)

The following City staff was present:

Martin Ince, Multi-Modal Planner
Gerry Craig, Traffic Engineering Manager
Erik Solberg, Assistant Public Works Director
Kevin Mullaney, Streets Superintendent

Others present:

Jack Welch
Ruby Taylor

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Jim Tuck passed out copies of the "History of Flagstaff" series of brochures from the Visitor's Center, including the historic walk brochure that is written by the Mangums.

Sharon Grasso asked about the status of plans for modifications to the intersection of Fort Valley Road and Forest Avenue. She requested that this item be placed on a future agenda, so the Pedestrian Advisory Committee could have input before the plans are finalized.

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Mike McDonald said that ADOT is pushing snow onto the sidewalk on the north side of Route 66, and suggested we contact the City staff person who is responsible for enforcement. Erik Solberg said that Stephanie Smith in Environmental Services is the new contact. Mr. McDonald indicated that he would also try contacting someone at ADOT. There was a brief discussion about who is responsible for sidewalk snow removal when a parcel is vacant, like in front of the cliffs along Route 66. The Committee indicated that it would like to invite Stephanie Smith to the next PAC meeting.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval Of Minutes

There is a typographic error on page 5 of 6 of the November 8, 2007 minutes; "trail" should be changed to "trial." Kathie Oehme made, and Mr. Tuck seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 13, 2007 and November 8, 2007. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Use of Chemical De-Icer on City Streets

Erik Solberg and Kevin Mullaney of the City's Public Works Department and Streets Division were present to make a Power Point presentation on the trial use of chemical de-icer on city streets.

Mr. Mullaney indicated that the use of chemical de-icer meets about one-half of the goals established by the City Council, and are the factors that drive winter street maintenance: safety, economics, and commerce. He said they want to take a proactive rather than reactive approach, and that they want to increase the level of service.

He said that the de-icer does not work as well when streets are very cold, and that they still intend to use cinders for traction and when it is very cold. There are several problems with the use of cinders; they cause air pollution and dust, they don't maintain their effectiveness, and they leave a mess after lots of applications.

The de-icing product has several benefits; vehicular traffic helps create a melting effect, cinder clean-up is minimized, accidents and liability are reduced, ice build-up is eliminated, and clogged drainages are reduced.

Regarding cinder removal, the Public Works Department's goal is to sweep arterials, collectors, and bike lanes within two weeks of a snowfall.

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Heather Taylor said that cinders that spill over onto the sidewalk can be real problem. They often remain late in the season. Adjoining property owners are responsible for their removal.

Mr. Mullaney indicated that there are also negative impacts from the de-icer; it is corrosive to equipment, there are environmental concerns, and it deteriorates asphalt and concrete.

Mr. Mullaney provided an illustration of the economics of using the de-icer rather than cinders; in January 2007 the City applied 5600 tons of cinders to city streets. It takes 28 days to clean up the cinders, and costs \$42 per ton. As a result, the total cost of cinders for the month would be \$15,600. The de-icer, on the other hand, would cost \$5400.

The de-icer experiment is targeting streets that have a high incidence of snow-related accidents.

Cinders are applied at a rate of 1500 pounds per lane mile, while de-icer is used at a rate of 300 pounds per lane mile.

Jack Welch said the big advantage is that de-icer does not remain after a storm like cinders.

Mr. McDonald asked if there were a way to use a boom arm or extension to spread the de-icer on sidewalks. Mr. Solberg replied that it is just an experiment at this point, and there would be a concern about the number of obstacles between the street and the sidewalk. He said that he has seen it used on sidewalks on college campuses, and that it was applied by "gator" vehicles.

Ms. Grasso asked how many applications were needed during the recent storm to keep streets from becoming a sheet of ice. Mr. Mullaney responded that the de-icer is applied and then the street is plowed, and the process is repeated as often as necessary. Mr. Solberg added that there was a steep learning curve during the first storm, but the crews learned a lot during the first few days.

Mr. Mullaney indicated that the City's Environmental Services Division will be doing an environmental study on the trial, including water quality. Public Works will also review accident rates before and after the study.

Kathie Oehme wondered how quickly the de-icer will be implemented if the test is a success. Mr. Solberg replied that they do not intend to apply it to every street in town, but just those streets that need it most.

Mr. Solberg said they had received a number of positive calls over the weekend during the snow storm about the de-icer.

Ms. Grasso asked what marketing efforts were made in advance of the test. Mr. Solberg replied that Kimberly Ott, the City's public information officer, and Tom Boughner of the Police Department have both provided information to the media.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. FUTS Plan Updates

Martin Ince described proposed changes to the plan and referred to a map that illustrates the changes.

Mr. Welch wondered about whether the Lake Mary FUTS should be kept if the road is not widened. Ms. Oehme asked about the status of and future plans for the Presidio development.

2. FUTS Priorities

Mr. Ince asked that this item be held over to the next meeting.

3. BBB Tax

Mr. Ince briefly described the City Council's tentative schedule and process for renewal of the BBB tax.

4. Butler – Humphreys Intersection Improvements

The Committee reviewed plans for changes to the intersection of Butler Avenue and Humphreys Street that will be made in conjunction with the NAU conference center.

5. Mountain Line Map Update

Mr. Tuck described the process and schedule for updating the Mountain Line route maps, and asked for suggestions to make it more useful.

Ms. Oehme asked about the planned location for the downtown transfer center, and suggested bus schedules and maps for individual routes. Mr. Tuck thought it would be too costly.

There was a brief discussion about the materials and format of the map. Mr. Tuck described, and the Committee discussed planned route changes, including a possible new route to serve the planned Wal-Mart and the Aquatics Center.

Mr. Tuck suggested making the NAIPTA Citizens Advisory Committee report available to the PAC.

6. Letter of Appreciation

Mr. Ince will draft a letter to Becky Daggett in appreciation for her service on the PAC. Ms. Oehme offered that Becky had a unique knowledge of things that were going on in other places as a result of the conferences and meetings she attended.

7. New Member Recruitment

The Committee is engaged in trying to find a new member to fill the vacancy. A suggestion was made to contact Friend of Flagstaff's Future. Mr. Ince offered to contact Becky Daggett.

Ms. Taylor announced that the County's new Safe Routes to School coordinator is Kim Austin. She should be added to the PAC's mailing list.

Mr. Tuck suggested someone from NAU as a possible new member. Ms. Taylor suggested contacting the new NAU chief of police.

8. Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Awareness Campaign

The Committee received a copy of a letter from Michael Sanders, ADOT's bicycle and pedestrian program coordinator, regarding a solicitation for interest in participating in the state's pilot safety awareness campaign. Mr. Ince said that the City will be sending a letter to express its interest.

9. Letter to Editor Regarding Snow Removal from Sidewalks

Chair Duncan offered to draft a letter to the editor. Issues to cover include positive reinforcement for those who do clear snow from their sidewalks, the hazards for pedestrians who are forced to walk in the street, and statistics on walking in Flagstaff.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There were no reports.

2. Concluding Announcements

There were no concluding announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.