



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:30 pm, Monday, August 6, 2007

City Hall, Finance 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:

Becky Daggett
Georgia Duncan
Sharon Grasso
Mike McDonald
Heather Taylor
Jim Tuck

The following members were absent:

Kathie Oehme

The following City staff were present:

Gerry Craig, Traffic Engineering Manager
Martin Ince, Multi-Modal Planner

Others present:

Darrell Boomgaarden
Sherman Stephens

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

The members of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, City staff, and others present at the meeting introduced themselves and expressed their goals and aspirations for the Committee.

Heather Taylor said she would not be able to make either the September or October regular meetings.

Jim Tuck mentioned that the large black bus seen recently around town was a hybrid vehicle here to do altitude testing. He said that NAIPTA has ordered several that are very similar.

2. Public Comment

Jack Welch announced that he was leading a series of AARP walks at the Adult Center. This is the tenth week of the series. He said that twice in recent weeks the group had not been able to cross the Rio on the FUTS trail near Bonito due to flooding.

Mr. Welch said that he was pleased that the committee was meeting, as he has been working with the Traffic Commission for five years to make the Pedestrian Advisory Committee a formal City committee.

Darrell Boomgaarden asked if a presentation could be made to the PAC on the status of the BBB (bed, board, and beverage) tax renewal. He also asked if the previous list of PAC goals were still applicable, and if the list could be included on future agendas.

3. Approval Of Minutes

There are no previous meeting minutes to approve.

II. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of officers

Mr. Tuck made, and Becky Daggett seconded a motion to elect Georgia Duncan Chair of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sharon Grasso made, and Jim Tuck seconded, a motion to appoint Becky Daggett as Vice-Chair. The motions was approved unanimously.

2. Traffic calming and streetscape plans for South Beaver and South San Francisco Streets

Martin Ince made a brief presentation of the concept plans for traffic calming on Beaver and San Francisco, based on the staff report that was included in the PAC packet.

Ms. Grasso expressed some concern about the planned FUTS under crossing of Route 66 and the BNSF tracks.

Ms. Daggett said that they have been told they work in cities like Boulder, and asked what makes them work in other places. Gerry Craig responded that the key factors

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are good design and lots of use and activity. There was a brief discussion of other underpasses in town, notably those at Butler and Enterprise and at Fourth Street and Route 66, neither of which see extensive use.

Mr. Welch said that he has used several tunnels in Phoenix which are well-lit and allow you to see through to the other side.

There was a discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of removing parking on one side of San Francisco.

Ms. Daggett suggested including street furniture, such as benches, as amenities for pedestrians. She also said that bus stops should be planned as part of the improvements.

Chair Duncan asked about the plans for bus service on the Southside. Mr. Tuck responded that a circulator routes are planned between NAU and downtown that will use both Beaver and San Francisco. He said there will be a need for bus stops along both streets.

Ms. Grasso asked about plans to return the streets to two-way traffic. Mr. Craig provided a brief history of the issue, and said that the conversion to one-way streets had been positively received by truck and large vehicle operators and commuters who use the streets every day. He said there were also negative comments, principally the loss of the north-bound bike lane on Beaver and the impact on businesses. Other concerns were that the speed of traffic had increased, it was not great for bicyclists, and the neighborhood had lost some character. Improvements included a higher level of service for through traffic and a slight decrease in accidents.

Mr. Craig said that on-street parking is a benefit to pedestrians and their sense of well-being on the sidewalk.

There was a question about the planned Lone Tree overpass. Mr. Craig said that it would divert some through traffic from the southside and allow the streets to be converted back to local streets. They function as arterials right now.

The possibility of a sales tax ballot item was mentioned for the Lone Tree overpass.

The BAC had a discussion about mid-block crossings and the fact that the plan did not include mid-block curb swellings to accommodate crossings. They were included in the downtown streetscape improvements. The PAC recommended that some consideration be given to curb swellings at mid-block locations, to allow mid-block crossings and bus stops.

3. Pedestrian Awareness Week - International Walk to School Day

Ms. Taylor asked Mr. Welch for an update on the planning. Mr. Welch said that International Walk to School Day is planned for Wednesday, October 3, 2007. There were no other formal plans for the remainder of Pedestrian Awareness Week, but Mr. Welch was hoping the Committee would help with settling the schedule.

He summarized several possible activities:

- Walking school bus. Monday did not work, but it could be done either Tuesday or Thursday.
- Walking maps of the downtown area, similar to Santa Monica. He said that Joe Haughey had offered money to support the effort.
- A fully-accessible walk starting at the Visitor's Center and focused on downtown.
- Bus-hikes, which consists of taking a bus to the start of a hike to promote Mountain Line.
- Senior citizens walks.
- Walkability checklist.
- A walk to Willow Bend Environmental Education Center, which in the past has been known as "Follow Me to Willow Bend."

There was a question raised as to whether the week should be five or seven days, and on which day of the week it should start.

Ms. Daggett suggested a walk to the Farmer's Market on Sunday morning. She said the Friends of Flagstaff's Future had a regular booth, and offered to share the space to promote Pedestrian Awareness Week activities.

There was a discussion about a possible Cityscape article, although there was a concern that the deadline for submittals had been missed. Another pull-out section in the Daily Sun was mentioned, although it was expensive last year. The Committee agreed that they should be better prepared for next year since this is an annual event.

A consensus was reached that the week would start on Sunday morning (September 30) and would end on Saturday (October 6). Scheduled activities will include a hike to the Farmer's Market on Sunday morning, Follow Me to Willow Bend on Saturday morning, and bus hikes every day but Wednesday.

Ms. Taylor gave an overview of the planning for International Walk to School Day on Wednesday. Four schools are participating: Kinsey, Thomas, South Beaver, and Marshall. Coordinators were in place for each school, but volunteers were still

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needed. Volunteers will work for three hours starting at 6:15 am. Their main duties include walking with groups of 15-20 kids. At least 10 volunteers are needed at each school.

The PAC asked for a special meeting on Thursday, August 9, 2007, at 4:30 pm to continue planning for Pedestrian Awareness Week.

4. Future PAC Meeting Logistics

Mr. Tuck made, and Ms. Daggett seconded, a motion to move the regular meeting time to the second Thursday of every month, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. The motion was approved unanimously. The Committee was satisfied with the electronic distribution of the agenda packets.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. REPORTS

There were no reports.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee formally recognized Mr. Welch for all his hard work and contributions over the years.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tuck made, and Mr. McDonald seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.