



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 9, 2016 | 4:30 pm

City Hall, Council Chambers
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Kim Austin, chair
Joyce Browning
Brandon Cruickshank
Stephanie Stearns
Denise Wynne

Members absent:

Cecile LeBlanc
Heather Williams

The following City and agency staff were present:

Blake Berner, Montoya fellow
Sara Dechter, long range planning manager
Martin Ince, multimodal planner

Public present:

Jack Welch

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Ince introduced Blake Berner, who is serving as the Montoya Fellow transportation intern.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Wynne made, and Ms. Stearns seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 12, 2016. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian and bicycle master plan

Mr. Ince made outlined the updated version of the missing sidewalks report. The committee discussed various aspects of the report:

- The committee discussed why Milton is important as a pedestrian and bicycle route. There are more-or-less continuous sidewalks along the street, but they could be better for pedestrians. The street may never be comfortable for bicyclists, even with bike lanes in place. Milton was compared to Butler, which has less traffic but it is faster moving, less side friction, and a median. Many cyclists do not find Butler comfortable. Cyclists are more likely to use the NAU campus as an alternative to Milton. Milton is under ADOT's jurisdiction.
- The committee discussed the advantages of additional crossings and medians. There is a concern that even with additional formal crossings, there will be more places where people will want to cross.
- There is also a concern about the impact of some sidewalk projects on landscaping, walls, and other improvements that residents may have placed within the right-of-way. The committee wondered if there would be some forum for residents, property owners, and the public to voice their concerns about potential landscaping removal. Two potential approaches were discussed; the first involves identifying potential problems in advance and working to address them, and the second gives property owners an opportunity to comment on the plans in advance. The committee discussed gardening groups like the master gardeners or Flagstaff Area Stream Team that could help landscape the area after the sidewalk is installed. Water collection gardens might also be used. It may be possible set aside a budget for landscaping and beautification as part of the project.

2. In street pedestrian crossing signs

The committee discussed several potential locations for in-street crossings:

- Switzer Canyon and Turquoise: this is a difficult crossing, but there are no marked crosswalks. A sign at this location is likely to be damaged given the speed of traffic. A roundabout under design for this intersection.

- South Beaver at Phoenix, Cottage, and possibly Benton
- South San Francisco at the same cross streets
- Cherry and Beaver
- Leroux and Birch
- Aspen and Agassiz

In some communities, brightly colored umbrellas or flags are available in buckets on either side of crossings for pedestrians to use to make themselves more visible.

For maintenance reasons, the signs should be removable, spring-loaded, and affixed to the street.

Mr. Ince briefly described the residential traffic calming process. The committee is interested in getting more information about the process.

3. Flagstaff Walks!

This item was held over to the next meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. High occupancy housing plan

Ms. Dechter explained the policy background, purpose, and process for the high occupancy housing plan. She said there will be considerable public participation. She explained that she is looking for a representative from either the PAC or BAC to serve on the steering committee for the plan, and that Steven Richard from the BAC has volunteered. Mr. Cruickshank said the he is interested in serving as a backup. Ms. Dechter explained that backups can still attend steering committee meetings. She said she will be back at the committee with further information after the first of the year.

2. PAC terms and appointments

Mr. Ince provided a list of terms and expiration dates for current committee members. He asked if it might work to recruit new members from targeted groups that have an interest in pedestrian issues. Several potential groups were suggested, including the county health department, county planning, NAPEBT wellness, and NAU.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There were no Reports

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.