



MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 10, 2017 | 4:30 pm

City Hall, Staff 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:

Denise Wynne, vice-chair
Jodi Norris
Zach Schwartz
Jack Welch
Amy Young

Members absent:

Brandon Cruickshank

One vacancy

The following City and agency staff were present:

Kevin Hoople, Flagstaff Police Department
Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Carlton Johnson, associate planner
Neala Krueger, intern
Emily Melhorn, intern
Dayna Wasley, intern

Public present:

Brad Johnson

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Welch said that there is be a meeting this evening regarding the comprehensive plan for the Arizona Trail. The meeting goes until 7:30 pm at the Aquaplex.

2. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Schwartz made, and Ms. Young seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 13, 2017. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Active Transportation Master Plan

Mr. Ince provided a summary of the FUTS trail users survey.

There was a discussion about the lack of representation in the younger age groups, possibly because NAU was not in session. For future surveys it may be beneficial to work directly with NAU administration and campus groups.

Low trail use at night is probably related to a lack of lighting along sections of popular commuter trails.

The group felt that 25 percent is a fairly high percentage for users who drive to the FUTS. This number can probably be reduced.

It is surprising that the Route 66 Trail was not higher on the list of most-used trails. The Committee discussed commuting versus recreational use of the trails, and whether survey responses were skewed more towards recreational use. Trails at the top of the most-used list are generally considered to be more recreational rather than commuter trails.

The Committee discussed issues expressed in the survey related to transients along FUTS trails, and the reasons why trail users feel discomfort when transients are present. Officer Hoople indicated that incidence of crime on FUTS trails is fairly low, occurs mainly at night, and typically involves transients as both perpetrator and victim. He said that pulling statistics of this sort would be difficult. Better lighting would definitely help. Mr. Ince said there is an opportunity to work with the Police Department to design trails to discourage crime and encourage proper use.

2. Flagstaff Walks!

The Committee continued to plan details for Flagstaff Walks! events:

- Officer Hoople indicated that the Police Department is able to provide traffic control if any of the events involve large groups.

- Ms. Melhorn said she could organize a Geology Walk.
- The Progressive Breakfast will be on September 21 or 28, depending on Kim Austin's availability. The walk will start at the downtown transfer center on Phoenix. Carmels and Mix are possible stopping points.
- A parking space could be used at the downtown library for Community Market days, but only until the library opens at 10:00 am.
- Kim Austin has details for the PAC for International Walk to School Day.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. High Occupancy Housing Plan

Carlton Johnson with the City's Long Range Planning Section provided an update on the High Occupancy Housing Plan. He described the history of zoning and density in Flagstaff for high-density development, and explained the trade-offs between density and sprawl in terms of public infrastructure costs and efficiency, including transportation.

Mr. Johnson outlined the process for developing and adopting the plan, and summarized a series of draft recommendations in the plan. He showed a map of where high-occupancy is currently allowed by zoning, and activity centers where it might be allowed in the future.

Following the presentation, the Committee had several comments and questions:

- The Committee asked about the traffic impacts of additional development. Mr. Johnson explained that more dense development will have different impacts than development that sprawls and is far from activity centers.
- There was a discussion about the City's traffic impact analysis (TIA) process and the potential to have new development build or pay for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- The Committee asked if the plan will recommend rezonings in areas that currently do not allow high occupancy housing. Mr. Johnson answered that there may be some additional areas, but it depends on their suitability for high occupancy housing.
- There was a discussion about planning for health impacts with high occupancy housing, including sidewalks, access to open space, bike parking, etc.

- The Committee discussed sidewalk standards for high occupancy housing, including increasing the standard width, adding sidewalks where missing, and the importance of parkways.
- The Committee wondered about practices in other communities to ensure that sidewalks are kept free of snow and debris, and maintained in good repair.
- The Committee asked if it were feasible to make all sidewalks 10 feet in width so they can accommodate bicycling. Mr. Ince responded that it is not always desirable, especially when a lot of driveways and side streets can make it less safe for bicyclists.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There were no Reports

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm