

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, January 11, 2018 | 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:

Brandon Cruickshank
Tracy McMillan
Jack Welch
Denise Wynne
Amy Young
Zach Schwartz

Members absent:

Jodi Norris

The following City and agency staff were present:

Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Jenny Niemann, Sustainability Section

Public present:

None

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Ms. McMillan introduced herself as the newest member of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

2. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Young made, and Mr. Welch seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of November 9, 2017 and December 14, 2017. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0),

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Active Transportation Master Plan

Mr. Ince presented a draft version of criteria to help determine priorities for construction of future FUTS trails. There are a total of 15 factors. The information presented reflects comments made the previous week by the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee.

- The Committee discussed the role of FUTS for recreation versus transportation, and whether the evaluation criteria favored one or the other. Mr. Ince suggested that users are readily able to use the FUTS for recreation, but that more work must be done to make them more of a viable transportation facility.
- There was a discussion about how connectivity should be measured. The Committee suggested modifying this factor to reflect the extent to which FUTS trails help to close gaps and enhance pedestrian and bicycle networks. This definition does not overlap with completeness, because it includes sidewalks and bike lanes in the analysis, and because the completeness factor favors short gaps in the FUTS, while connectivity can address long gaps.
- There was a question about whether NAU proximity should be removed or devalued as a factor, since it overlaps to some extent with other factors. The Committee recommended changing the weighting from 2.0 to 1.0.
- Employment density may deserve a higher weighting factor. There was a question about why the NAU campus does not have a higher score in employment density.
- It would be beneficial to include current and future locations for high occupancy housing projects. It is not clear how much guidance will be provided by the high occupancy housing plan, or how this could be incorporated into the process.
- A constant sum-paired comparison exercise may help bring more objectivity to the process of assigning weighting factors. All of the factors should be described in terms of how they promote the purpose of FUTS trails.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Flagstaff Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Ms. Niemann made a presentation regarding the Flagstaff Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. She said the plan implements one of the Council's goals to address climate change. The City has engaged a consultant to help prepare the plan, which will take about 10 months and should conclude by October. The plan will address how the City should respond to a changing climate.

Ms. Niemann explained that the process will include significant public engagement. The first open house is planned for January 24, and others are planned in March and July. A survey is available for those who are unable to attend the open house. Coffee shop meetings have been scheduled for informal drop-in conversations. The City has convened a steering committee to assist with preparation of the plan. A citizen-initiated climate action group has also been formed.

According to the City's data, transportation accounts for half of emissions in Flagstaff, and has surpassed buildings as the biggest user of energy. Potential solutions could be transportation-related, although specific recommendations for addressing climate change will not be determined until later in the planning process.

The Committee asked a number of questions and made several comments:

- Does the transportation-related emissions data include tourism? Ms. Niemann said the measurements are somewhat broad at this point, although they hope to gather more detailed data.
- Will the plan address implementation? The plan will include an implementation section, and responsibility for implementation will include community partners.
- How will the consultant address the plan – are there universal principles and solutions for adapting to climate change, or will the approach reflect local context and conditions? The consultant helps create a structure that allows the public to help determine which solutions are most appropriate and effective for Flagstaff. The steering committee consists of local residents.
- Will there be funding identified for infrastructure, including walking and biking infrastructure? Not directly, although the plan could identify needs. The plan will be adopted too late to be used in the Citizen's Transportation Tax Commission's deliberations.
- What is NAU's participation in the planning process? City staff has been working with NAU staff, but has not yet engaged university administration.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There were no Reports.

2. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm