

DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Thursday, August 8, 2019 | 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:

Brandon Cruickshank, chair
Jodi Norris
Jack Welch
Shay Zimmer

Members absent:

Megan Hosterman
Zach Schwartz

One vacancy

The following City and agency staff were present:

Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Christina Parry, senior assistant city attorney

Public present:

Will Carlstrom
Mark DiLucido
Christy Lyle
Lee Riddell

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Welch recapped a trail clean-up his group performed along the Switzer Wash Trail.

Chair Cruickshank reported that he saw in-street yield-to-pedestrians signs on a recent trip to Colorado. He recalled that the PAC had conversation about using the signs here, and would like to bring it up again.

Ms. Zimmer introduced herself as a recent appointee to the PAC. She said she recently moved here from Austin. She gets around primarily by walking, and regularly uses the FUTS.

Mr. Ince introduced Jacob Wang as the new Montoya Fellow. He also announced that Megan Hosterman has resigned from the Committee. However, Ms. Lyle has applied and could be appointed at the October Transportation Commission meeting.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Welch made, and Ms. Norris seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 9, 2019. The motion was approved unanimously (4-0).

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. E-bike and e-scooter amendments to City Code

Mr. Ince reviewed the City Code changes adopted by the Council at their June 28 meeting, and outlined the questions PAC has been asked to consider.

The Committee said that bicycles are not common on the Nate Avery Trail, and that it is almost self-regulating. It is not clear if it will be the same with e-bikes. FUTS trails are places where people can go slow, and increased use of e-bikes and faster devices might detract from why people go there.

The Arizona Trail is frequently used as a commute route. It is also difficult to go up the steep hill north of Route 66.

Mr. Carlstrom said he recently became a e-bike user, because it was becoming more difficult to pedal a regular bike. He advised the Committee to be careful not to disincentivize bicycle commuting. He said that although Class 1 e-bikes have an electric motor, it is more like a gentle push. There is little difference between a Class 1 and a regular bicycle. He expressed a concern about prohibiting e-bikes in the tunnel under Butler at Ponderosa. He provided some examples of e-bike accommodation from other communities.

The Committee conducted a series of straw polls in response to the Council's request:

- The Committee voted 3-0-1 to allow e-bikes on the Nate Avery Trail
- The Committee voted 3-0-1 to allow e-bikes on the Arizona Trail
- The Committee voted 3-0-1 to not prohibit e-bikes on any additional FUTS trails

Ms. Riddell said that electric scooters are everywhere in some cities in the east, and they can be a real distraction. The Committee clarified City Code revisions for scooters, which is to allow them on paved FUTS, but to prohibit them on unpaved FUTS and sidewalks.

Regarding dogs, the Committee said that trash cans and bag dispensers can be scarce along the FUTS. The Committee indicated an interest in trying crowd-filled bag dispensers. Grants might be a way to way to fund the program. It might also be possible to sell small, portable bag dispensers at the Visitors Center.

Regarding trail etiquette, the Committee offered several thoughts:

- A series of Burma Shave-type signs would be effective.
- Visitors will read the message on kiosks, but locals will not.
- The message needs to be shorter and to the point.
- Bicycles giving an audible signal when passing should be emphasized.
- Signs should discourage groups of walkers spreading across the trail.
- The signs should use humor and emphasize being nice, being courteous, and sharing the trail.

The Committee asked Mr. Ince to bring back specific recommendations for messaging.

2. Active transportation master plan/FUTS master plan

Mr. Ince provided a brief outline of the capital planning process for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

The Committee asked about the plan for grade-separated crossings. If a high-priority project, like the downtown crossings, is not ready to go in five years can the money be reallocated to other projects.

The Committee asked about funds for acquisition. Mr. Ince replied that acquisition costs are not included in cost estimates. There is a bond funding for acquisition for FUTS projects. Most other projects are generally contained within the right-of-way.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Flagstaff Walks!

Mr. Ince indicated that he and Mr. Welch will have an off-line discussion about potential events.

2. PAC-adopted segment of FUTS

This item was not discussed

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There was no discussion on the Reports.

2. Announcements

The Committee requested discussion at the next meeting on the following topics:

- Flagstaff Walks!
- In-street crosswalk signs
- Ways to better promote a culture of walking and biking

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.