Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm Room 333 City Hall

- 3:00 pm Introductions
 Approval of Meeting Notes
 Announcements
- **3:05 pm Pedestrian Master Plan** Update on final revised plan presented for Council approval this week.
- **3:10 pm** Sidewalk Snow Clearance Communications Review of new sidewalk snow clearance communications and discussion of potential committee involvement in spreading the word about sidewalk snow clearance.
- **3:30 pm Pedestrian Advisory Committee 2.5 Year Review** Conclusion of last month's committee discussion of how the committee is fulfilling its mission, how the committee compares with other city advisory committees, and opportunities to improve effectiveness of the committee.

PAC	Attendees	Representing	Present
Member			
X	Jim Adams	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee	
X	James Andrew	Metropolitan Council	X
X	Kristen Klingler	Minneapolis Dept of Health & Family Support	
X	Theresa Cain	Metro Transit	
X	Aaron Day	City of Lakes Chamber	
X	Anna Flintoft	Minneapolis Public Works, PAC Chair	X
X	Anna Gillette	7 th Ward Citizen – North Loop	
X	Loretta Grewe	Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	
X	Stephanie Gruver	4 th Ward Citizen	
X	Diane Hansen	12 th Ward Citizen	X
X	Sarah Harris	Walking Minneapolis Foundation	
X	Elizabeth Haugen	Minneapolis Communications Department	X
X	Steven Hay	Minneapolis CPED	X
X	Robin Hennessy	City of Minneapolis Attorney's Office	
X	Mary Jackson	Minnesota Department of Transportation	
X	Karen Nikolai	Hennepin County	
X	Jennifer Ringold	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	
X	Mike Rumppe	Minneapolis Fire Department	
X	Jan Sandberg	7 th Ward Citizen – Loring Park	X
X	Steve Sanders	University of Minnesota	
X	David Smith	Minneapolis Public Schools	

X	Mackenzie Turner	Bicycle Advisory Committee	
X	Kathy Waite	Minneapolis Police Department	
X	Mary Watson	6 th Ward Citizen	
	Trevis Graham	Public Works	X

Pedestrian Master Plan

Anna Flintoft explained that the final draft Pedestrian Master Plan was presented to the City Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee on 10/6/09 and is scheduled for final approval on 10/16/09.

Sidewalk Snow Clearance Communications

The committee reviewed and discussed the following approaches for improving sidewalk snow clearance communications this year:

- Draft email to Minneapolis neighborhood organizations encouraging people to help their neighbors with sidewalk snow clearance and downloadable flyer on responsibilities and resources.
- St. Paul Smart Trips materials: http://www.smart-trips.org/sidewalks.php
- Cambridge, Massachusetts materials: http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/services/snow.html

Ideas included:

- Getting info out through National Night Out *Elizabeth is going to look into communications via block clubs*
- Partnering with churches or other service groups to assist seniors and others needing help with snow shoveling – Diane is going to look into an association of churches in South Minneapolis.

Pedestrian Advisory Committee 2.5 Year Review

The committee reviewed the major issues discussed by the committee at the September meeting, as documented in the September meeting notes, and added the following additional issues:

- Roles and Responsibilities Citizen members would like to have more specific assignments and understanding of their role on the committee. Because a lot of pedestrian issues are related to the livability issues that neighborhoods work on all the time, citizen PAC members could be assigned to share/gather information with neighborhood organizations on pedestrian issues of interest to the PAC. A list of members and an explanation of their roles on the committee is needed. The committee needs bylaws, which could help to define roles and responsibilities, as well as membership and attendance expectations.
- *Mission* Most of what the PAC has addressed to date is infrastructure-related, but there are a lot of softer issues important for increasing/improving walking, such as public safety and the atmosphere created by street musicians, public art, etc.
- *Membership* James explained that participating on the PAC is not a necessary part of his job as a Metropolitan Council employee. He participates primarily because he lives in downtown Minneapolis and has a personal interest. However, it is important for the Council to be aware of the committee's existence and overall work. There may be other members in a similar situation.

The committee reviewed the purposes of the committee identified at the last meeting (advocacy, review, public engagement forum, but not implementation) and discussed how they relate to the responsibilities developed in 2007. The committee questioned what it means to advocate for pedestrian needs.

The committee agreed that low attendance and participation on the committee is a problem than needs to be addressed. The goal is to have a committee filled with people who want to attend, are motivated to help accomplish the committee's mission, and have clear understanding of their roles. In order to figure out how to best meet that goal and recommend changes to the structure of the committee (if needed), the committee agreed that it needs a clearer understanding of its purpose and responsibilities. Anna Flintoft asked that each member review and update the committee responsibilities developed in 2007 based upon what each member believes the committee should be doing and bring them to the next PAC meeting. This will help to determine next steps.