

**Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
Summary Meeting Notes**

May 3, 2007

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Room 333, City Hall

Agenda

- 3:00 pm** **Introductions**
Approval of Meeting Notes
Announcements
- 3:10 pm** **Updates** - Pedestrian Master Plan & Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program
- 3:15 pm** **Committee Vision and Purpose** – We will collaboratively develop an understanding of the PAC’s vision and purpose.
- Please consider the following questions prior to the meeting:
- Why is walking important? Why do pedestrians matter?
 - How do walking and pedestrians relate to the City’s goals?
 - What expertise, perspective, and/or responsibility do you bring to the committee?
 - As the committee charged with advising the City on pedestrian issues, what do we need to do?
- 3:50 pm** **2007 Committee Priorities** – What will we accomplish in 2007? What do we need to function effectively as a committee in 2007? What are top priorities for 2007?
- 4:10 pm** **Health Dept. Walking Initiatives** – Patty Bowler from Minneapolis Health and Family Support will share her department’s experiences with increasing walking for health purposes.
- 4:25 pm** **Review of Action Items**

Attendees

PAC Member	Attendees	Representing	Present
X	Jim Adams	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee	
X	James Andrew	Metropolitan Council	X
X	Deborah Boyd	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	
X	Theresa Cain	Metro Transit	X
X	Anna Flintoft	Minneapolis Public Works, PAC Chair	X

X	Anna Gillette	7 th Ward Citizen – North Loop	X
X	Loretta Grewe	Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities	X
X	Stephanie Gruver	4 th Ward Citizen	X
X	Diane Hansen	12 th Ward Citizen	X
X	Sarah Harris	Walking Minneapolis Foundation	
X	Janee Harteau	Minneapolis Police Department	
X	Elizabeth Haugen	Minneapolis Communications Department	X
X	Diana Hawkins	City of Lakes Chamber	
X	Steven Hay	Minneapolis CPED	X
X	Robin Hennessy	City of Minneapolis Attorney's Office	X
X	Mary Jackson	Minnesota Department of Transportation	X
X	Karen Nikolai	Hennepin County	X
X	David Rak	Minneapolis Dept of Health & Family Support	
X	Mike Rumppe	Minneapolis Fire Department	X
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
X	Mary Watson	6 th Ward Citizen	X
	Shaun Murphy	Mpls Bicycle & Pedestrian Programs Intern	X
	Patty Bowler	Minneapolis Dept of Health & Family Support	X

Summary of Items Discussed

Introductions/Approval of Meeting Notes/Announcements

There were no comments on the April meeting notes.

A schedule of monthly meetings for 2007 was distributed. The committee decided to change the July meeting from July 5 to July 12. 2007 meetings will be held in City Hall Room 333 from 3:00 to 4:30pm on the following dates:

Thursday, May 3, 2007
Thursday, June 7, 2007
Thursday, July 12, 2007
Thursday, August 2, 2007
Thursday, September 6, 2007
Thursday, October 4, 2007
Thursday, November 1, 2007
Thursday, December 6, 2007

Updates - Pedestrian Master Plan & Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program

Anna Flintoft reported that the Pedestrian Master Plan funding is still being finalized, and procurement of consulting services will begin after the funding is approved. The NTP program

received only one application for the Bicycling and Walking Ambassador Program, which was from the City of Minneapolis, and that award is expected to be granted to Minneapolis.

Committee Vision and Purpose

In order to build a more common understanding of the committee's purpose and role, the committee went through a brainstorming exercise related to the reasons that walking and pedestrians are important, the expertise the committee collectively represents, and the priorities for the committee's first year. Anna Flintoft read the committee's existing mission, which was established when the committee was created:

To advise the Mayor and City Council on policies, programs, and actions for improving pedestrian safety, mobility, accessibility, and comfort; for promoting walking for transportation, recreation, and health purposes; and for strengthening the linkage between the pedestrian environment and public transportation.

The committee then broke into three smaller groups to discuss the following questions:

- Why is walking important? Why do pedestrians matter?
- How do walking and pedestrians relate to the City's goals?
- What expertise, perspective, and/or responsibility do you bring to the committee?
- As the committee charged with advising the City on pedestrian issues, what do we need to do?

The small groups reported their ideas to the larger group. Those ideas were recorded on poster paper and included the following:

Why walking matters / relationship to city goals:

- Vitality
- Safety – eyes on the street to counteract or report crime
- Do no environmental harm
- Healthier for the pedestrian than car
- Change perception of a community – appears to be safer with people around
- Necessary component in mass transit
- Fewer cars needed
- Makes living more affordable
- Stress reduction
- Personal health
- Options – freedom – control – own timeline
- Social interaction
- Builds community
- Economic benefits
- Urban lifestyle
- Human scale and human pace
- Being part of community
- Safe routes to school / health issues for kids

- Pets/hobbies
- Crosses economic barriers
- Provides new vantage point to City of Minneapolis helps residents connect with community
- Promotes health
- Every trip begins and ends as a pedestrian / everyone is a pedestrian
- Congestion management
- Reduces fear of environment
- Physical activity, mental health
- Economic viability of businesses (Nicollet Mall)
- Eyes on the street
- “Get Fit” activity
- Pedestrian environment open to all
- Reduce barriers for those that do not drive
- Free mode of transportation
- Energy efficient
- Pedestrian environment supported by good urban forest and public art
- Good for visitors

Committee member expertise

- Pedestrian
- Walk everywhere / walk by choice
- Don't own a car
- Involved with neighborhood
- Accessibility for people with visual disabilities
- Insurance agent
- Communications
- Dog owner – walk a lot
- Kids walking to school
- Walk/bike orientation
- Concept of bringing things and people together
- Perspective from other cities
- Value pedestrians bring to real estate

Committee priorities

- Advocate for infrastructure and development that supports pedestrians
- Develop creative ideas that make people want to be pedestrians
- Develop creative ideas for funding
- Identify what other cities are doing that works
- Identify ways to get people out of their cars and off their sofas
- Improve public/pedestrian safety
- Promote the public safety brought by pedestrians
- Identify barriers and solutions and think of ways to overcome them
- Identify things that don't cost a lot of money

- Get good PR
- Encourage year-round walking
- Encourage safe driving laws
- Identify “quick fix” issues
- Balance ped needs with mass transit needs
- Change perceptions
- Use existing avenues to get info out
- Provide a voice to difficult political issues
- Educate itself on a broad range of issues
- Educate the city (targeted groups)
- Get pot money in capital improvement program
- Educate ourselves, opportunities for us to teach each other
- What has the city council asked us to do? Advise them in proactive, reactive, or both ways?
- Identify the problems, suggest some solutions, what have other cities done?
- Be a catalyst in various organizations/neighborhoods we’re in. Have discussions figuring out what they want
- Infrastructure – reach out to neighborhoods to ask about improvements needed in each neighborhood, e.g. none of the bridges are lit in my neighborhood
- Be creative about getting people to be pedestrians. Ask people why they don’t walk
- Be as proactive as we can. Make sure infrastructure is worked into existing development
- Educate decision makers in the city that this committee is a resource for them to use, and well as a resource to neighborhoods
- Compile a list of what other groups are doing with this huge issue
- Figure out what’s out there and educate ourselves. There are many great things happening in neighborhoods and we don’t know about it. Creativity and pr cost nothing sometimes.
- Effectively make sure things happen as development goes in
- What are the plans, how do we feed into those. Focus on certain geographic areas since the city is so huge.
- Identify what the problems are beyond generalizations (e.g. not safe to walk downtown versus specific corners, areas, etc.)
- Balanced approach, don’t just focus on downtown, integrate neighborhoods
- Make sure pedestrian standards used when development happens, this will be cheaper in the long run. Community walking audits would help us know about specific problem areas. Cedar Riverside LRT ped path to neighborhood never got done, it’s so hard to get it done after the development happens
- Identify problem first and pick ones you want to do. Pick issues where there is a high chance of success.
- Congestion, heart disease, global warming, lack of funding for infrastructure, all of these could be make better is there were more ped facilities. Build up the idea that it is really important so that the general citizen buys into it. Part of how we do business, pedestrian goals should be right in front
- Do we help influence the pmp or does it influence what the committee does. Talking points for the media members can give

- Tone of what the group is doing shouldn't be too anti-car. We can work together
- Background on what the challenges, problems, and solution are. Need education. Infrastructure and maintenance dollars need to be addressed. Development is better handled by the neighborhoods
- Analyze existing conditions, come up with issues and opportunities, look at what works well and move forward
- Work with as many groups as possible, work with transit to make congestion better

Elizabeth Haugen from the City's Communications Department agreed to take the committee's ideas and develop them into a statement which the committee may use to guide their priorities.

Health Dept. Walking Initiatives

Patty Bowler from the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) discussed her department's three initiatives to increase walking for health purposes: Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis, Get Fit Twin Cities, and Safe Routes to School.

- Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis is a 5 year grant-funded program to decrease obesity through nutrition and physical activity and to decrease tobacco use. The program focuses on health disparities in Minneapolis; targeted areas include North Minneapolis, Northeast Minneapolis, and Phillips. The program provides funding directly to community organizations, health care institutions, and schools. At the outset of the program, MDHFS conducted a focus group to learn what would be necessary to improve the targeted health objectives. Walking was a common theme among all focus groups. Specifically, people wanted to walk with their families, in their communities, and to a specific destination. An evaluation of the program is currently underway
- Get Fit Twin Cities is a partnership between Minneapolis and St. Paul to improve nutrition and physical fitness which began in January of 2007 and continues through May 2007. Participants register as individuals or teams and record the minutes of physical activity and weight loss they accomplish. There are currently 7500 participants and 1400 teams.
- MDHFS also has some funds allocated to planning outreach for Safe Routes To School programs in Minneapolis. Patty would like to bring this plan to the PAC for feedback.

Action Items

In order to build the committee's understanding of pedestrian issues and initiative, Anna Flintoft asked that each committee member email her two five minute presentation topics for future meetings:

- a pedestrian issue, program or strategy on which you are working or with which you are concerned - a presentation by you
- a pedestrian issue, program or strategy that you would like to see presented to the committee - a presentation by someone else

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 7, 3:00 pm, City Hall Room 333

