

## **Minutes for Joint BAC and PAC Meeting**

**January 4, 2012, 4 PM – 6 PM**

**Room 333 Minneapolis City Hall**

**BAC Members Present:** Nick Mason, Ethan Fawley, Billy Binder, Bob Hain, Marin Byrne, Paul Frenz, Matthew Hendricks, Gina Mitteco, Joshua Houdek, Tom Leighton, Georgianna Yantos, Hōkan, Richard Anderson, Bill Dooley, Robin Garwood, Lisa Bender, Sarah Stewart, Simon Blenski, Janice Gepner

**BAC Members Absent:** Jim Skoog, Gary Nelson, Andrew Rankin (excused), Jennifer Ringold, Hope Johnson, Roy Hallanger, Brian Funk, Peter Wagenius, Shaun Murphy (excused)

**PAC Members Present:** Amber Fink, Julie Danzyl, Michael Mechtenberg, Joe Bernard, Don Ostrom, Anna Flintoft, Matti Gurney, Jack Garland, Neal Baxter, Julia Tabbut, Tory Hull, Dan Herber, Scott Engel, Kelly Wilder, Philip Ailiff, Rose Ryan, Sarah Stewart, Diane Hausen

**Others Present:** Don Pflaum, Bill Lindeke, Steve Clark

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm and was jointly chaired by Nick Mason (BAC) and Matti Gurney (PAC). After member introductions, the Agenda was slightly modified to add a welcome to Marin Byrne and to shorten the Seven Corners discussion. The amended Agenda and both BAC and PAC Minutes were unanimously accepted.

### **Decisions**

Both the PAC and BAC unanimously approved a Resolution to thank Hennepin County for agreeing to design changes that considered bicycles and pedestrians and also to request that the County share its design drawings with both committees for review so that we can provide optimal input.

### **Summaries of Discussions**

#### **1. Introductory remarks.**

- Marin Byrne was welcomed as the new BAC member from Ward 8.
- The purpose of this Joint meeting of both the BAC (Bicycle Advisory Committee) and PAC (Pedestrian Advisory Committee) was for us to get to know each other and talk about common goals.

#### **2. PAC Accomplishments and Goals** were presented by Matti and Kelly Wilder. A summary which had been shared with the City Council was shared with attendees.

Accomplishments from 2011:

- The PAC achieved more stringent guidelines by Traffic and Parking Services for greater pedestrian accessibility through work zones.
- The PAC advocated for more enforcement of sidewalk snow clearing and achieved a pilot program in the Wedge.
- The new position is a Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator.

- Minneapolis is a gold level Walk Friendly Community.

Priorities for 2012 include the following:

- Continue to advocate for improved sidewalk snow clearance
- Investigate crosswalk marking practices and pedestrian-related traffic crash trends
- Assist the city with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance
- Establish subcommittees
- Increase coordination with the BAC

3. **BAC Accomplishments** from 2011 were presented by Don Pflaum. The written summary shared with attendees will soon be presented to the City Council.

Accomplishments included the following:

- The adoption of the Bicycle Master Plan and Implementation Plan
- The hiring of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
- The substantial increase in on-street bikeways and the completion of trails
- The addition of 1000 new bicycle parking spaces
- Innovations such as advisory bike lanes and bike traffic signals
- Gold status for the city as both a Bicycle Friendly Community and as an employer
- The reorganization of the Bicycle Advisory Committee and establishment of subcommittees
- Bicycling has increased as the crash rate has decreased
- Expansion of the Nice Ride bike sharing program

#### 4. **2012 PAC and BAC Joint Goals**

- Health Department Initiatives
  - Researching the conversion of a low use street to a greenway
  - The passage of a Complete Streets policy

Sarah Stewart is a member of both the BAC and PAC and will work with both committees on these initiatives.
- Safe Routes to Schools
  - Expand the number of schools
  - Promote pilot projects and education initiatives
- Street reconstruction projects
  - Traffic signal optimization for biking and walking
  - Opportunity projects include Washington Ave S between 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S in 2014 and Central Ave NE from 29<sup>th</sup> to the river
  - Possible East/West transitway on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> St from Hennepin Avenue to the freeways; issue: Should routes be consolidated? contact Michael Mechtenberg at Metro Transit ([michael.mechtenberg@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:michael.mechtenberg@metc.state.mn.us)) with feedback.
- The creation of on-road bicycle lanes helps bicycle safety by narrowing car lanes and slowing motor vehicles and helps pedestrians by getting bicycles off the sidewalk.
- Coordination between PAC and BAC: Subcommittee chairs should communicate. Should there also be a nonstaff person who is a member of both committees? List of joint goals should be brought to each committee for discussion and approval.

5. **Lowry Bridge** discussion led by Matthew Hendricks, BAC Engineering Subcommittee Chair. The BAC has been working on two initiatives for the bridge: the addition of bike lanes and curb

cuts, or slip ramps. Both have now been agreed to by Hennepin County. There was discussion on the importance of proper design and implementation and a resolution was passed by both Committees.

6. **Seven Corners** discussion led by Matthew. The next BAC Engineering Subcommittee meeting will include discussion of pedestrian improvements and bike lanes where Washington Ave crosses 35W. PAC members were invited to attend the meeting.

7. Don Pflaum led the discussion of **Dismount/Pedestrian Zones** at the University of Minnesota. Bicyclists are required to dismount in areas with a high density of pedestrians. There is no good East/West connection for bicycles through the U of M campus. PAC members were invited to the upcoming BAC Enforcement Subcommittee meeting on January 19 at the Commuter Connection so we can suggest a solution that is optimal for both pedestrians and bicycles.

#### 8. **Announcements**

- Nick Mason: BAC representatives were included in a meeting about providing a good way to bicycle to Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport.
- Ethan Fawley: Bike/Walk Week will be in February with an event on the Midtown Greenway on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from noon until 3. For more information, check the Midtown Greenway Coalition website or Freewheel.
- Michael Mechtenberg: Preliminary plans for the reconstruction of 4<sup>th</sup> St and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave at Cedar/Riverside should be completed by the middle of 2012. He will send more information to both groups and welcomes input.
- Joshua Houdek: Midtown Greenway hearing with the Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday, January 10 in St. Paul with a final vote on Thursday, Jan 12. Also, check out the Sierra Club Report on the economic impact of reliance on foreign oil.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Gepner.  
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