Minutes, Pedestrian Advisory Committee March 7, 2012

Present: Neal Baxter, Diane Hansen, Andrea Long, Scott Engel, Dan Herber, Tony Hull, Julia Tabbut, Kelly Wilder; Mackenzie Turner, James Andrew, Sarah Stewart, Rose Ryan, Gina Mitteco, Julie Danzl, Mike Mechtenberg, Joe Bernard; Shaun Murphy; Excused: Matti Gurney and Amber Long

Vice-Chair Kelly Wilder called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM, then asked us to introduce ourselves.

Public Comment

Joe Bernard—The Executive Committee of CLIC (the City's Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee) and City Planning Department will meet on May 24. If PAC wants to influence the City's priorities, this meeting presents a fine opportunity to do so.

Mike Mechtenberg—In the next few months, east-west transit changes are under consideration at MetroTransit. Pedestrian improvements are being considered, too.

Shaun Murphy—terms for 7 members end in June. Shaun strongly urged them to re-apply by April 13.

He has drafted an appeal for new members, for the PAC website. He read the message. Tony asked about targeted audiences. Shaun pointed out that Wards 5, 11 & 13 send no representatives to PAC, and the North Side sends only one. Members agreed that PAC also lacks business owners.

Shaun cannot attend the April meeting; Mackenzie Turner will sit in his stead.

Mackenzie Turner—The Stroll Mpls 55+ Club held its first walk this morning, downtown. These walks will take place every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. A walk is planned in each ward, and a bike club is underway, too.

Kelly Wilder—Southwest Journal highlights Shaun Murphy in its current number.

Sarah Stewart—On March 24 from 11 AM to 1 PM, Venture North Bike-Walk Shop (Glenwood Ave.) will sponsor its Gear Up for Spring event.

Tony Hull—His organization's website has interesting new data. Also, the state Department of Transportation held a splendid seminar recently, on ADA issues, in Arden Hills.

Approval of February's Minutes

After adding Andrea Long to those present, Tony moved to approve the minutes, Andrea seconded. Approved.

Process for Updating the By-Laws

Changes were made to clarify (e.g., change requires Yea vote of 2/3 voting members present). Discussion followed, including the need for a Secretary, and representation from the City Council.

Election of Secretary

Kelly nominated Neal Baxter, Tony seconded. Approved.

Subcommittee Structure

Shaun handed out the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee, which included: create 2 subcommittees, Infrastructure & Engineering and Programs & Policies create a list of interested PAC members for each, then decide on time & place of 1st meetings nominate a chairman for each, the subcommittees to vote on nominees at their 1st meetings approve sample agendas

Discussion followed, as the members of the Ad-Hoc Committee commented on their work:

Tony—the proposal divides the PAC's work between technical issues and policy/planning;

Dan—why not let the subcommittees nominate their chairmen, subject to approval of PAC. This way involves no change to PAC's by-laws; (Members liked this change)

Tony—hoped that experts would be very interested in attending the subcommittee meetings. membership is expected to vary with the agenda.

asked Shaun whether rooms are hard to reserve in City Hall.

Shaun—That's according to where members want to meet. They don't have to meet in City Hall.

Members signed up to attend the 1st subcommittee meetings, and discussed agenda items.

Dan moved to approve the subcommittee arrangement as presented, with a friendly amendment that the subcommittees will nominate their chairmen. Tony seconded. Approved.

2012 Work Plan

Shaun passed out Pedestrian Master Plan Goals. We split into 3 groups to determine the items amongst the Goals which 1) were most time sensitive, 2) would have the greatest impact, and 3) we can achieve in the next 12 months. Kelly will hand back the result at the next PAC meeting. Dan proposed adding comments returned with the Walk Friendly Award application as agenda items.

2012 Maintenance Projects

Both PAC and the Bicycle Advisory Committee are looking at all City, County and State street maintenance projects, to compile a list of the ones we should keep an eye on. Mackenzie distributed a short list of projects on tap. Her priorities included high incidence of crashes, bridges, intimidating pedestrian corridors.

Comments: the subcommittees can & should locate other priorities

PAC's ability to impact these items changes yearly

question about upgrades in accordance with the Disabilities Act

Hennepin County is focused on finding curb ramps to install in North Mpls

Minn. Department of Transportation ditto

This handout will go to the Infrastructure & Engineering subcommittee.

Civil Fines for Unshoveled Walks

Shaun explained that the City Council postponed changing the fines until spring 2012. The Programs & Policies subcommittee should take this on, in order to work it through the City Council. Tony explained the Council's hesitation to approve this change quickly. Dan observed that Mike Kennedy seemed "gun shy" when last he met with PAC. Can he give PAC his written proposal before he gives it to the Council, so we know whether we support it, too? Dan added that, as we have no idea of the Council's concerns in this matter, we can't answer their objections.

City Council Liaison

Shaun asked Leslie Forman (10th Ward policy aide) if she would deign to serve as the Council's liaison to PAC. Both Mrs. Tuthill and Ms Foreman embraced the idea with enthusiasm.

Additional Announcement—Tony Hull

The Central Corridor project will develop a survey to address pedestrian issues along the Corridor. Shaun asked whether the P &P subcommittee might invite a representative from the Corridor to talk.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM