

## Meeting of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, May 2, 2012

**Present:** Phillip Auliff, Neal Baxter, Scott Engel, Amber Fink, Jack Garland, Matti Gurney, Diane Hansen, Tony Hull, Don Ostrom, Julia Tabbut; Sarah Stewart, Rose Ryan, Joe Bernard, Steve Mahowald (Metro Transit), Leslie Forman, Shaun Murphy.

Shaun Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM.

### **Announcements**

Scott Engel had just returned from Boston, and thought the area was a superb pedestrian environment. In particular, he found zebra striping at every intersection, no matter how busy the streets.

Don Ostrom—likewise in Denver, the free fare zone downtown gives a powerful incentive to commuters to use the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Transit hub.

Tony Hull—data from Transit for Livable Communities show biking up 50% and walking up 18% (he passed out sheets). The numbers show marked growth all year long. Also, the data from the Congressional Walking Street survey are available on-line.

Philip Ailiff—The City Council will discuss the future of Peavey Plaza on May 17.

### **Approval of April Minutes**

Jack moved, with the amendment of his presence at the meeting; Don seconded. Approved.

### **Announcements, cont.**

Rose Ryan—Hennepin County will want a P.A.C. Member to serve on the Steering Committee for their Pedestrian Plan.

### **Proposed Change to the By-Laws**

Tony moved adoption, Jack seconded. Approved.

### **P.A.C. Applications**

Shaun said that 8 seats are available; 7 hopefuls and 3 current members have sent in applications. The 3 current members will be re-appointed. As no resident of North Minneapolis has applied, Shaun has recommended leaving 1 seat vacant until PAC secures an application from that area. He asked us to seek residents from the North Side to apply. Discussion followed.

Also, as Matti & Kelly are both leaving the Committee, Tony suggested we form a Nominating Committee to replace them as Chair and Vice-Chair.

### **Snow Removal Resolution**

Tony thanked all who helped with this, then moved to approve. Jack seconded. Approved. Tony urged all members to use this document to persuade our Council Members to take action on this issue.

### **North Minneapolis Greenway Steering Committee—Sarah Stewart**

As funding has been secured to convert a street on the North Side into a bike route, a Steering Committee will meet to push this agenda forward. A plan for the route is expected in June 2013. First meeting convenes at Sumner Public Library on May 8 at 4 PM. Sarah asked for a volunteer to attend meetings until a North Sider joined the PAC. Neal agreed to do this.

### **Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Scott Engel**

Next meeting is scheduled for May 3 in Shaun's office. Agenda: the Washington Avenue reconstruction from Hennepin to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. So. (2014); work on Winter St. NE and 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue So. (2013); and selection of a standing meeting date. Shaun suggested that, since the Washington Avenue work may put the interests of pedestrians and bicyclists at odds, the PAC & BAC should discuss & work on this together.

Leslie Foreman added that this year's work on Nicollet Avenue will narrow that street between 31<sup>st</sup> & 39<sup>th</sup>. Though the data no longer warrant a semaphore on Nicollet & 34<sup>th</sup> St., Council Member Tuthill has persuaded Public Works to retain the light there.

Don asked if the above made more likely the re-opening of Nicollet Avenue between 28<sup>th</sup> & Lake Streets. Yes, it does, was the answer.

### **Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Tony Hull**

The committee met on April 25 in Shaun's office. Topics included criteria for using highly visible crosswalk markings; the efficacy of the City's new work zone practices; and agendas to push forward in 2012. The 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in the month was chosen as the standing meeting time (5:30-7:00 PM).

Shaun advised of a field trip to the vicinity of Lyndale & 53<sup>rd</sup> St., on May 4, to look at ADA compliance there.

Ken Rogers, chair of the City's Disability Committee (sitting in today), told PAC that light rail has set aside bonus money for contractors who attract few complaints during construction of the Central Corridor line.

### **Work Plan for 2012, a discussion**

Tony—which subcommittee will handle what the next step should be?

Shaun—most likely P & P, as Infrastructure has a full plate.

Scott—Is the East-West Transit Plan really time-sensitive? (Discussion followed of the Plan as a PAC agenda).

Joe—the Plan will affect the Washington Avenue work.

Matti—“reducing pedestrian deaths”: we've wanted MNDOT to address this issue here for a long time.

Tony—Mpls might be a better agency for that topic. Simon Blenski has lots of data on it.

Joe—how about reviewing new policy documents, like the Climate Action Plan?

Shaun—one of our members would have to read one and report back to PAC.

Don—that'd be a great way for PAC to get our foot in the door early.

Jack—agency members could alert PAC to upcoming publications worth looking at.

Matti—let's look at the status of our agenda items quarterly, to keep track of our progress.

Also, we've had no field walks for ages.

Scott—did our comments from the Hiawatha & 46<sup>th</sup> St. walk hit home?

Joe—the Riverside Avenue walk had a great impact on the final result.

Rose—Washington Avenue re-build poses another like opportunity for PAC.

At this point, Diane pointed out that PAC's July meeting falls on Independence Day. She suggested July 11 instead. Members thought the change had merit.

**New Business—Shaun Murphy**

Public Works has just installed the City's first traffic signals with Lead Pedestrian Interval.

You'll see them Uptown, where Hennepin intersects with Lake and Lagoon.

Rose suggested PAC draw up a list of other corners that could benefit from LPI signals.

Don moved to adjourn; Neal seconded. Approved, at 5:33 PM.