

Meeting of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, April 4, 2012

Present: Phillip Auliff, Neal Baxter, Scott Engel, Matti Gurney, Diane Hansen, Dan Herber, Tony Hull, Andrea Long, Don Ostrom, Julia Tabbut, Kelly Wilder; Mackenzie Turner Bargaen, James Andrew, Sarah Stewart, Rose Ryan, Julie Danzl, Joe Bernard, Mary Jackson, Steve Mahowald (Metro Transit), Leslie Forman. Mackenzie sitting in for Shaun Murphy.

Vice-Chair Kelly Wilder called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM, then asked all present to introduce themselves.

Announcements

Leslie Forman, an aide for Councilmember Meg Tuthill (Ward 10), said she & CM Tuthill were thrilled when Shaun Murphy asked Leslie to serve as the Committee's City Council liaison.

Mackenzie shared the success of today's Stroll Minneapolis walk, which proceeded from the Midtown Global Market through Powderhorn Park. These walks, which are scheduled for 2 Wednesdays each month through August, are advertised in the Public Libraries and on the City and Neighborhood websites.

Julie Danzl announced the first ever Bike/Walk to School Day, on Wednesday, May 9.

Proposed By-Law Changes

Kelly handed out the by-laws with small changes noted in Sections 2 & 3 (i.e., a non-voting member from the City Council, and an official Secretary).

Tony moved to vote on these changes in 10 days via e-mail; Kelly seconded. Approved.

Filling Vacancies

Mackenzie noted the 7 vacancies still available for seats on the Committee starting July 1. Kelly encouraged all whose terms expire to apply for another 2 years before April 13. Tony asked Mackenzie to send a memo to members, noting which areas (like the North Side) are under-represented. Kelly urged members to promote the Committee, and will send out pertinent material.

The Subcommittees

Both had met for the first time, and reported to the Committee.

Programs & Policies Committee nominated Tony Hull for Chair.

Infrastructure & Engineering Committee nominated Andrea Long & Scott Engel as co-Chairs.

Neal moved that the Committee approve the Chairmen as nominated, Don seconded.

Approved.

Their reports:

Scott Engel reported that his committee heard a) Public Works explain their reconstruction of Penn Avenue, between 50th and 62nd Streets. The work will commence in 2013 and finish in 2014, and will widen sidewalks and narrow the crossings. Scott moved that PAC recommend that Public Works add zebra crosswalk stripes to all signaled intersections in this work zone. In answer to why zebra striping is preferable, Scott replied that they offer greater visibility and the Walk Friendly people urged the City to use them more often.

No second motion being needed, we voted on and approved the resolution.

b) Bob Carlson of Public Works explained the latest developments in 7 Corners. This project is designed to reduce the hazard, often fatal, for pedestrians at these crossings. Pubic Works means to add signage, to more clearly define pedestrian crossings and to re-time the semaphores.

Scott moved that PAC recommend that Public Works include in the 7-Corners project zebra crosswalk markings at signaled intersections; two 5-foot bike lanes instead of a median; retain the No Turn on Red signs now in use; use a lead-pedestrian interval with the Walk phase at intersections; and set pedestrian signals on recall (automatic).

Comments: the median should be unnecessary, as the walk will be a short one;

the cafes pose a problem in this district, do we know how they affect pedestrian traffic?

we need to watch whether the City allows more cafe seating in the wider sidewalks here.

Tony offered amendments to the subcommittee's motion, which amendments Scott deemed friendly. PAC voted on the resolution as written above. Approved.

Discussion turned to the Mayor's plans for Washington Avenue. Joe Bernard informed us that

the *2025 Plan* includes Washington as a lovely pedestrian walk way. He added that Public Works will ignore this document's suggestions while working on 7 Corners.

Tony handed out a summary of a presentation on crosswalks his subcommittee heard. He reckoned it a good presentation and a good way to move forward. He added that the State of Minnesota always uses zebra stripes at pedestrian crossings.

Discussion followed: only guarded school crossings automatically receive markings (Julie); can't the City paint the stripes in the spring, for longer usefulness (Scott)?; we asked them to do so (Tony).

A long discussion ensued over the subcommittee's motion about snow removal. A resolution will be sent to all voting members of PAC for a vote as soon as practicable.

Per the 3rd subcommittee, Disability, they will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 4:30 PM. This subcommittee will also discuss snow removal at its next meeting.

PAC Website

Mackenzie handed out sheets which showed the state of our site.

PAC Work Plan

As Kelly, who was planning to present this agenda, had left, Matti Gurney invited comments about our work plan.

PAC & the Disability Committee should cooperate more (Phillip); working on longer range agenda, 5 years or so, would be useful (Don).

Matti adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.