

Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 2, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Minneapolis City Hall – Room 333

Present:

Voting Community Members (Ward #):

Philip Ailiff (7)	Jacqueline Knight (11)	Don Ostrom (7)	Julia Tabbut (2)
Peter Janelle (1)	Diane Hansen (12)	Scott Engel (9)	

Non-Voting Agency Members:

Sarah Stewart (Mpls DHFS)	Mike Mechtenberg (Metro Transit)	Shaun Murphy (Mpls PW)
Deborah Bartels (MPRB)	Leslie Foreman (City Council)	

Also attending:

Kathleen Mayell	Wayne Schafer	Patrick Sadler
Gail Lee	David Peterson	Craig Westgate

Meeting called to order at 4:05

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Scott moved. Unanimously approved.
3. Announcements from Committee Members & Agency Updates
Mike: There will be public meetings for input on the Midtown Transitway project in late January. Dates and locations will be emailed to the PAC. See also <http://metrotransit.org/midtown-transitway-home.aspx>
Shaun: Walk Friendly Communities sent us window clings, coasters, and books.
4. Complete Streets Workshop Update, Sarah Stewart
A report on the recent workshop. 27 attended, including Shaun, Don, and Neal. They discussed the 10 elements of an ideal complete streets policy and where Minneapolis is doing well and falling short. Overall, Minneapolis is doing well.
5. Pedestrian Snow Removal Practices, Wayne Schafer
Different parties are responsible for snow clearance at different types of bus stops. Many shelters (all of those with advertisements) are owned by CBS Outdoor and that is the source of most of the bus stop snow clearance complaints. The city is responsible for enforcing snow clearance at all stops. Metro Transit's snow clearance priorities, for those stops for which they are responsible, are outlined at <http://www.metrotransit.org/snow-removal-procedures.aspx>
Don would like to see the snow removal process reorganized so that all stops get cleared in a timely manner. Wayne agrees.
6. Open Streets Update, David Peterson
Open Streets events have previously been held along Lyndale Avenue South and Lowry Avenue North. They have been funded to have four events in 2013. They will use the previous locations for two of the events, but need to identify two more, one in Northeast Minneapolis and another in the southeast quadrant of the city. Several

possibilities have been suggested. Locations with fewer traffic signals are more cost-effective. Emergency services has rejected East Lake Street as a possibility due to concerns about a lack of alternate emergency routes.

Leslie: Businesses love this event.

Scott: Last year this event became bike-dominant. Make sure the event is fully open to pedestrians too.

Deborah suggests Cedar Avenue for consideration.

Sarah: Choose a route that passes through a diversity of neighborhoods.

Scott: Central Avenue NE is a no-brainer.

7. PAC Member Vacancies, Shaun Murphy

There are vacancies in wards 4, 5, 10, and 13. Because of applicant volume and quality, they're selecting two from Ward 10 and one from Ward 13. (Quality applications are defined as those that demonstrate an understanding of and care for pedestrian issues.)

The next round of terms begins July 1. If you know people who are interested, encourage them to apply.

Kathleen Mayell, a new likely rep from Ward 10, introduced herself.

8. 15th Avenue S & 5th Street, Julia Tabbut

A new development is planned along 15th Avenue South that would maintain vehicle access but block pedestrian access along 5th Street between Riverside Plaza and the Brian Coyle Center and Currie Park. It is unclear to us what the benefits are from the developers' perspective.

Action item:

The developers of the proposed Currie Park Lofts along 15th Avenue South in Cedar-Riverside have been required to leave 5th Street open to vehicle access. However, they are currently planning to block pedestrian access through that gap between buildings.

There is concern that this would pose a safety issue, with pedestrians crossing at 5th whether it was permitted or not, but a proposed 6' fence will make that impossible.

Riverside Plaza has 5,000 residents, and there is heavy pedestrian traffic between it and the Brian Coyle Center and Currie Park (the neighborhood's "living room") across 15th Avenue. There is a walkway along 5th Street to the east which will be blocked for additional residents to the east of Cedar Avenue. This is not only an inconvenience but also a safety issue.

The PAC urges the Planning Commission to maintain 5th Street as a pedestrian connection between Riverside Plaza and the Brian Coyle Center.

Heavily amended. Unanimously approved as written here.

9. Sunset Blvd & W 28th St Reconstruction, Gail Lee

Metropolitan Council is planning a sewer project in the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood. The neighborhood would like several improvements to happen in conjunction with the dig: a crosswalk at 28th Street and the park entrance and a sidewalk along the length of Sunset Boulevard. Normally approval is required from 100% of homeowners in order to put in a new sidewalk, but in this case they will likely make an exception for 65%

approval, which they have. The Pedestrian Master Plan and complete streets require sidewalks along all streets, and this stretch especially gets a lot of pedestrian traffic.

Action item:

Whereas MCES plans on reconstructing both the roadway and park as part of its sanitary force main interceptor construction

Whereas construction is already underway at PSP – both park and roadway restoration is slated for spring 2013

Whereas all restoration costs are to be born by MCES budgets

Whereas the Mpls Public Works Department has directed MCES to replace the street in-kind

Whereas users access PSP via a wooded, and therefore, obstructed path off the Kenilworth creating a dangerous crossing

Whereas there is currently no crosswalk at the corner of W 28th St and Dean Ct

Now therefore the Pedestrian Advisory Committee requests the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department to direct MCES to include an enhanced crosswalk at W 28th St and Dean Ct

Don moved; Scott seconded; unanimously approved.

Action item:

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee strongly recommends that a sidewalk be included in the reconstruction of Sunset Boulevard from Chowen Street to Depot Street, in accordance with the Pedestrian Master Plan and Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks.

Don moved; Scott seconded; unanimously approved.

10. PAC Appointment MPRB Advisory Committee on Dean Pkwy

The Park Board Committee on Cedar Lake and Dean Parkway would like representation from the PAC. It requires a 3 meeting minimum commitment, as well as possibly an open house and public hearing. Jacqueline Knight volunteered.

~~11. Washington Avenue Reconstruction Update, Don Ostrom (Postponed to future meeting or email update)~~

~~12. End of Year Report, Shaun Murphy (Postponed)~~

Philip and Don moved to adjourn at 6:03. Unanimously approved.