

Meeting of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, February 6, 2013

Neal Baxter, Jennifer Edwards, Scott Engel, Diane Hansen, Dan Herber, Donna Hemp, Peter Janelle, Michael Jischke, Jackie Knight, Jason Lord, Don Ostrom, Julia Tabbut; Julie Danzl, Sarah Stewart, Joe Bernard, Rose Ryan, Gina Mitteco, Mike Mechtenberg, Leslie Foreman, Brie Whitcraft, Shaun Murphy.

Chairman Don Ostrom called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM, then asked all present to introduce themselves.

January Minutes

Approved.

Agency Updates

Sarah Stewart: the North Mpls Greenway Project Committee has chosen a route. We had 5 public meetings, and neighbors were very engaged. An open house will take place on February 12. Great Streets discussions are underway still, the next meetings will take place on February 20.

Mike Mechtenberg: the Midtown Corridor group has held very well attended open houses. Our study will conclude in February 2014, we hope, with implementation to follow. See midtowntransit.org

Shaun: the Climate Action Plan is working its way through committees. A meeting will take place in March.

Rose Ryan: the Hennepin County Pedestrian Action Plan is under review internally. Public review is coming in March.

PAC Member Vacancies—Shaun Murphy

Kathleen Mayell, Jason Lord and Michael Jischke will be official soon. Tony Hull has resigned, and his possible replacement, Stephanie Tofte, will attend the meeting in March. Jason & Michael introduced themselves. Don lauded Tony's contribution to PAC, and wished him well.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Dan Herber

Committee had a lively discussion about sidewalk clearance, and what peer cities are doing about it.

Mike Kennedy, Larry Matsumoto and Dan Bauer joined us. In March we'll present a plan for progress.

Diane: Kennedy has asked PAC to develop & prioritize routes for Public Works. That's a great opportunity, and we should use it.

Scott: These guys don't seem very interested.

Don: We need a legislative plan and a staff plan. And I share Scott's frustration.

Shaun: Bikers get action 'cause they complain a lot.

Joe: Pull 311 data for sidewalk complaints and you'll see biker complaints don't come close.

Leslie: City Council can verify that Joe's right!

Don: Can we find out who's responsible for which bus stops? Then we can point the finger accurately.

Leslie: The Council can enforce the bus shelter contract, or award it to another firm.

Mike: Negotiations for the shelter contracts are underway, in fact.

Also, how should PAC respond to pedestrian fatalities? Would a PAC member consider taking on this responsibility?

Washington Avenue Reconstruction—Don Ostrom

Project will commence in 2014. Focuses on the Hennepin-5th Ave. segment; Fred Schwartz is chief engineer. The road here needs 3 lanes each direction. Consensus exists for reducing emphasis on cars

here. Also, 4th Street is expected to handle more of the traffic heading for the freeway. 50-year life span.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Scott Engel

Andy Hestness (of the Native American Community Development Institute) says TCOIC, at Franklin & Cedar, wants to make Franklin more pleasant from Bloomington to Hiawatha. Using the median to advantage, and what-not.

Joe Bernard discussed the Above the Falls Master Plan with us, too. The Plan goes to the Planning Commission on February 19, with City Council adoption in early April.

Forrest Hardy joined us. Green Central, Lyndale, Lucy Laney and Waite Park have been chosen for the 4th infrastructure grant application. The improvements will make walking to school safer.

Julie: The Bus Stop and Walk program will expand to 7 schools, from among the many interested in it.

Winter Street Reconstruction (actually, 11th Ave. is the street under consideration). Storm water relief needs to be built there. The traffic lane is 15-foot wide (normal is 9-11'), so there's room for a sidewalk. Resolution: The Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommends that Public Works revise their plans for Winter St. NE to include an ADA-compliant facility for pedestrians along 11th Avenue between East Hennepin and Winter Street, following the City policy of filling sidewalk gaps, by reducing the size of the 17' traffic lane, 7' bike lane and large storm water facility. There is evidence of heavy pedestrian use due to an existing transit stop, and lack of safe options would endanger pedestrians. **Approved.**

Political Effectiveness of the PAC

Don: Where are the leverage points?

Leslie: The following Council members form the Transportation Committee: Colvin Roy, chair; Glidden, Quincy, Reich, Lilligren, Hofstede (wards 12, 8, 11, 1, 6 and 3).

Robin Garwood shared his insights into why BAC has so much clout. He thought this may be because:

- 1) BAC takes lots of positions, and shares its opinions freely and widely;
- 2) members cultivate relationships with City Council members, and meet with them often;
- 3) our annual report helps recall what we've done, and who helped us with our agenda;
- 4) we plan our priorities for the year in January.

Dan: we should join with other groups that include pedestrians: parents, seniors, et al.

Others agreed that, while a few vocal citizens bike, all citizens walk. Also, Robin allowed that PAC should chime in on more conversations, like street lighting and the new special service districts.

Neal moved to adjourn. Adjourned, at 6 PM.