

# Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Present: Neal Baxter, Shaina Brassard, Donna Hemp, Dan Herber, Rachel Bell, Julia Curran, Olivia Hovland, Barbara Olson, Peter Vader, Christian Huelsman, Tamir Ali Mohamud, Aaron Berger; Matthew Dyr Dahl, Sarah Stewart, Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Suzanne Murphy, Steve Mahowald, Mackenzie Turner Borgen, Emily Kettell, Julie Danzl, Carrie Christensen, Millicent Flowers; Luís Dax, pedestrian

Resolutions approved:

### 12th Street S Bikeway Project

The PAC supports the proposed 12th Street Bikeway and sidewalk expansion. The PAC supports tactile and visual delineation between bicyclist and pedestrian areas. We especially appreciate the modifications to the 2nd Ave S and 12th Street S intersection to reduce crossing distances and remove free right turns.

### Chicago Ave S Sidewalk Gap

The PAC applauds the connection of a heavily traveled sidewalk gap. We encourage study to determine if a boulevard is feasible and, if so, the PAC supports its addition.

Shaina Brassard called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

Tamir moved the minutes for the January meeting; Barbara seconded. Approved.

### **A Visit from the Police Department—Chief of Staff Art Knight**

On the invitation of Suzanne Murphy, Art Knight came to get acquainted with the PAC. This month he came in place of Deputy Chief Erick Fors, who is the PAC's contact with the Police Department, and unavailable for this meeting.

The Chief of Staff has 26 years of service on the force. In his opening remarks, Chief Knight said that he is very happy with the City's adoption of Vision Zero, and is interested to hear from PAC members how the police can make motorists more aware of pedestrians.

Dan: I'm glad to have a police representative on the PAC, as law enforcement advice would add to our analysis of street projects.

AK: I'll alert the Park Police, too, about weighing in.

SB: we're vulnerable, and in various ways. We feel empowered as we walk, but also exposed to danger and mayhem.

AK: anytime you see or feel a dangerous situation, call the precinct station. Ask for the supervisor, or the crime prevention specialist. Also, please attend the monthly precinct meetings and talk about your concerns.

CH: do you or can you report poor conditions to Public Works? Missing lights, for instance.

AK: we find people UNDER report bad or dangerous conditions. Please call when you see something amiss. Not enough people do that.

CH: would police testimony make change happen sooner?

AK: your best leverage is through block clubs and the neighborhood associations. Citizens who organize carry have a lot of influence.

SB: we feel there's a clear relationship between poor infrastructure and accidents and crime. Do the police recognize this, and do you offer the City your professional perspective on that?

AK: to a degree. We set up speed wagons, for instance, to try to alter driver behavior on streets that invite bad driving.

Dan: is there a dedicated pedestrian accident unit in the Police Department?

AK: each precinct assigns resources differently. We look for creative ways to change behavior. E-mail me with your ideas. [Arthur.Knight@minneapolis.gov](mailto:Arthur.Knight@minneapolis.gov)

### **Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Report—Peter Vader**

We looked at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bikeway project first.

Steve M.: Metro Transit had concerns about this project, which appear to have been answered.

Aaron moved to approve the resolution (#1 above); Barbara seconded. Approved.

The Chicago Avenue sidewalk gap next came to our attention. Our chief concern was the absence of a boulevard here, to further separate pedestrians from motor traffic. We're told Public Works will see whether a boulevard fits when the time comes.

Rattana: the proposed D Line adds a new transit station here. The public comment period on the D line runs this month.

Aaron: the cemetery will maintain the sidewalk.

MD: right! The City can't assess this property, but once it's built, the sidewalk is the cemetery's responsibility.

Neal moved to approve the resolution (#2 above); Christian seconded. Approved.

### **PAC 2017 Annual Report—Julia Tabbut & Matthew Dyr Dahl**

On March 13, the PAC and the BAC will make our annual visit to the City Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee. The Executive Committee wants to encourage PAC members to attend the meeting, and to speak if you will. Julia and I want your suggestions about what we should focus on this year. What should TPW members hear about?

PAC members had the following ideas:

Suzanne: Vision Zero.

Shaina: we finally have a pedestrian budget to back up the policy changes; and mention the America Walks conference, too.

Olivia: following up on our resolutions, learning about PAC's effectiveness.

Aaron: the fact that the engineers know our priorities, and address them.

Barbara: mention the temporary bollards at Chicago and 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Shaina: PAC's big influence on the Comp Plan, and we were asked to weigh in this time.

Sarah: Complete Streets continues to have an impact on project design.

Carrie: getting together with other agencies regularly is also very helpful, for all of us.

Curran: PAC's capacity is growing.

Peter: the progress we've made in snow removal, and the changes we still need to put in place.

MD: how do we want to address winter issues?

Donna: often times blind folk can't find the bus, which picks up in the street when the corners are snowed in.

Steve: where does the money come from for snow removal?

Barbara: how about asking communities to adopt corners and corridors to shovel?

Curran: this is a good chance to invite City Council members to take a walk with PAC members.

MD: highlighting winter problems this year, we may have an especially good chance to push the agenda, given the new Council members.

Rachel: applying the Pedestrian Crash study to solutions.

Julie: the move to transparent criteria for projects is big.

### **The Appointment Process for the 2018/2020 Term—Shaina Brassard & Matthew Dyrdaahl**

Seven members have come to the end of their terms. The deadline for applications for the PAC is April 20. The PAC is an at-large committee, members are appointed to answer diversity gaps, not for geographical spread.

SB: we want to reach out to groups and areas that are still not represented on the PAC.

An excellent discussion ensued about how the first-term members came to apply for the PAC.

SB: we'll return to this again at the P & P meeting this month.

### **Announcements**

Shaina: I've talked with the Met Council, and they can come discuss their purview, especially where transit is concerned.

Christian: a public meeting will be held Thursday, February 22, at 6:30 PM about Hennepin County's 46th Street Transportation Study. Go to the Longfellow Recreation Center, 3435 36th Ave. So.

Julie: today is the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Walk Day for the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Neal moved to adjourn; Christian seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 6:03 PM.