

# **Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting minutes**

## **Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

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

Resolutions approved by the PAC:

### **#1—Franklin Avenue & Bedford SE**

The PAC supports the proposed reconstruction at Franklin Avenue and Bedford Avenue. We particularly support the addition of crossings at all legs of the intersection.

### **#2—Safe Routes to School 2018 Project, Southwest High**

The PAC supports the proposed improvements at W 47th Street and Xerxes Ave S. We support the proposed flashing lights and bumpouts to calm traffic and shorten crossing distances. The PAC also supports the addition of a painted crosswalk at 47th Street and Beard Ave S.

### **#3--11<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. Protected Bikeway Upgrade**

The PAC supports the 11th Avenue South protected bikeway upgrade and protected intersection design. We appreciate the city's commitment to experimental design with the goal of protecting vulnerable road users. We approve of the perceptual narrowing of the intersection caused by the improvements.

Chair Julia called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM, and asked all to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Aaron moved to approve the minutes for February; Donna seconded. Approved.

### **Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Report—Julia Curran**

We looked at 3 projects and present a resolution for each.

Franklin & Bedford SE first. We saw this project for the second time. Problems with this intersection included speed of traffic and the lack of stop signs, both of which discouraged pedestrians from crossing. The original design made 2 Ts of the intersection; we suggested getting rid of that. These problems can only get worse, as development across the city line will send even more traffic through this area. Julia moved the resolution (#1 above); Neal seconded. Approved.

Safe Routes to School wants to make the crossing at 47<sup>th</sup> & Xerxes S. easier for students attending Southwest High. Many of them get off the bus at this corner. Julia moved the resolution (#2); Donna seconded. Approved.

Public Works is building a temporary protected bikeway at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. and 2<sup>nd</sup> St., to test some new ideas. We liked their openness to new solutions.

Phil: how will the City evaluate the success of this experiment?

MD: we'll look at video footage, and other data.

Julia moved resolution #3 above; Neal seconded. Approved.

Julia urged attendance at the next meeting, when extraordinary projects and discussion will take place.

### **Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Christian Huelsman**

Our guest Paul Miller of Public Works described for us how the City shepherds development ideas through to completion. The city is in the midst of a building boom, over \$1 billion in development for 7 straight years!

Kathleen Mayell and Kelsey Fogt talked about the effort underway to upgrade the City's ADA Transition Plan.

We also discussed Julia Tabbut's request for guidance when asked for comments by members of the press. We urged her to stress that the PAC is a citizen input group, that we choose walking for health and transportation, and also that everyone is a pedestrian sometime during each trip.

And we talked about the upcoming Annual Report to the City Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee, and how to recruit new members to the PAC. We will talk about the year's accomplishments first (PAC & BAC together), and then put forward where we want to go from here. The two freshmen on the committee will, perhaps, learn about PAC's mission for the first time. We intend to touch on Vision Zero, Complete Streets and winter sidewalk clearance, among other concerns.

All members are invited to attend the session, March 13 at 10 AM in the Council chamber.

### **Member Updates**

Several members attended a 5-hour workshop about the work being done on Hennepin Avenue from Washington Avenue to the Walker's Sculpture Garden. Work is expected to continue from 2019 to 2022.

Christopher: The project will put to use \$20 million in basic spending, and another \$5-6 million in assessments for extras. The 4 lanes of traffic will remain, and there are no plans to change the pedestrian area. The Theater District was a focus of this meeting.

Barbara: The theaters are worried about the effect of the street work on their crowds, especially on opening nights. We were told that traffic lanes would narrow slightly; we hope for more information later.

Rachel: we pointed out problem areas. We told Public Works that the plan includes too little green space, for instance.

Curran: As always, first the needs of the car, then the needs of the rest of us. But everyone appreciated being asked what the street should feel like. At the next I & E meeting we may see more detail.

Christopher: safety was a concern for most attendees.

Curran: and the plan doesn't address the places where pedestrians have been killed.

Barbara: federal funding seems to motivate the non-change in traffic lane width.

Christian: has Complete Streets had any influence on this plan?

Dan: these projects are not bold enough. PAC wanted to force real change. We have narrow sidewalks, thanks in part to the protected bikeways, so not enough changes. PAC should urge giving up federal money, if the rules that come with the money forbid change we want to see.

Others attended two workshops about Vision Zero.

Olivia: PAC, the BAC and Our Streets were invited to suggest what the City's Vision Zero policy should look like.

J Tabbut: the first meeting dealt with the Plan, the second meeting concerned how to engage whom. We got a look at the policies of other cities, which was very interesting.

Shaina: we proposed, among others, giving family members a chance to talk about the street where their relation was killed. We also talked a lot about reaching youth and diverse groups.

NB: the discussion about how to reach a really representative sampling of citizens was very good. We'll see how the City uses our ideas.

With last year's election, several new members now sit on the City Council. Several PAC members met new Council members in 2014, and we propose to visit new and returning Council members as soon as possible. I encourage everyone on the PAC to visit with their Council member soon.

Suzanne: I can tell all 13 that we want to do that when I preview the Annual Report.

### **Announcements**

Julia T: I'm meeting with Robin Hutcheson soon. And there's a meeting on April 7 at 9 AM to discuss what should be done about a vacant lot at Garfield and Lake Street.

Suzanne: problems with lights were brought to my attention. The lights at Central & 15<sup>th</sup> had a broken wire, and need repair. The light at Lake Street & Minnehaha has a long cycle, and so it seems unresponsive.

Neal moved to adjourn; Dan seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 5:38 PM.