

Full Committee

July 11, 2018

Meeting attendees: Phillip Ailiff, Neal Baxter, Paul St. Martin, Julia Curran, Olivia Hovland, Barbara Olson, Christian Huelsman, Peter Vader, Rachel Bell, Aaron Berger, Julia Tabbut; Matthew Dyrdaahl, Julie Danzl, Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Emily Kettell, Steve Mahowald, Suzanne Murphy, Chris Kartheiser, Millicent Flowers; Luís Dax, pedestrian

Resolutions approved by the PAC:

Resolution (#1): Minneapolis March 22, 2018 Draft Comprehensive Plan

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee enthusiastically supports the overall direction of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan draft. Increased density and complete, integrated neighborhoods are a major contributor to making walking a valid mode choice for more people and a positive walking environment for everyone.

We would like to see residential density and commercial zoning more evenly distributed throughout the City in the final plan.

We would also like to see firmer language, more concrete specifics, and higher attention given to walking, especially in the following sections:

Freight

Street Grid

Downtown Transportation

Public Realm

Complete Streets

Pedestrian-oriented Building and Site Design

(#2) A Resolution of Support, from the P & P Committee

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee enthusiastically supports the adoption by Public Works of the Ped Rail bumpouts made and designed by Dezipline, and piloted by the Downtown Improvement District and Public Works in 2017. We are impressed that the product was durable, effective and intuitive for users, including during the winter.

Not only does the product perform superbly well in all conditions tested, the innovative product was developed and made in Minnesota. As Minneapolis has become an example of a great city for biking, we look forward to also leading the way as a Walkable City. We encourage the city to continue to invest in pedestrian safety improvements that can be implemented in the short term.

Resolution (#3): Request to make the rainbow crosswalks in the Loring Park neighborhood permanent.

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee fully supports Twin Cities Pride's request to make the rainbow crosswalks in the Loring Park neighborhood permanent. The LGBTQ+ community does not exist just for one weekend; they deserve to be celebrated all year.

We further request that Public Works and CPED/Public Art work together to develop a sincerely accessible, more reasonable process that facilitates neighborhood requests to express community identity through crosswalk art, paint the pavement and sidewalk art. We give up too much of our humanity to the sterile concrete of roadways. Crosswalk art reaffirms that people have a place in our streets.

#4 The Pedestrian Advisory Committee is categorically opposed to the Nicollet Mall Policy, dated November 21, 2017, and strongly advises that it be repealed or heavily revised. These are our concerns:

- 1) No resident, let alone a one-time visitor, can be expected to memorize a map of usage zones before visiting a street, or bring a yard stick with which to measure out their distance from the curb or building face while there.
- 2) “Idling” is a normal part of being a pedestrian. If you’re walking through Zone 1 and encounter an acquaintance, you will stop and talk to them. If you see something interesting happening, you will stop to look. That flexibility is part of what makes walking great, and to try to prevent it on a “pedestrian-friendly, public thoroughfare”, our downtown’s “signature street,” is absurd.
- 3) Most importantly, there is no current reality in which we can imagine this being equitably enforced. Implicit bias is real, and it’s harmful. For all of the reasons that the “lurking” ordinance was recently repealed, we cannot allow “idling” to be criminalized on any sidewalk in Minneapolis.

Finally, we are disappointed that it took so many months for us to learn of this policy. Any City policy that’s on the surface intended to benefit pedestrians should be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that it is.

(#5) 28th Ave S Bridge over Minnehaha Creek Resolution:

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the 28th Ave S Bridge Over Minnehaha Creek project, particularly the grade-separated crossing and narrowed vehicle lanes over the bridge. We encourage further narrowing of vehicle lanes to better calm southbound traffic trying to “beat” the dual signals at Minnehaha Parkway.

(#6) County/City Marshall Street Feasibility Study

Resolution: The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the ongoing study of Marshall Street NE, guided by the Minneapolis Complete Streets Plan, to improve pedestrian and biking utility and safety. We appreciate Minneapolis and Hennepin County seeking PAC involvement at this early stage, and their continuing to include PAC as this project proceeds through planning and design.

#7 3rd Ave S Bridge over Mississippi River update

Resolution: The Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the proposed cross-section and appreciates our comments being taken into consideration. We look forward to seeing the incorporation of additional comments as design proceeds. Further, we suggest adding crosswalks to all corners of the intersection.

#8 Fremont Ave Bridge Replacement

Resolution: The Pedestrian Advisory Committee offers qualified support for the proposed design of the Fremont Ave S bridge with the caveat of ADA compliant crossings at the south end of the bridge from east to west and maximum possible narrowing of the roadway. We strongly support the addition of ADA ramps to

connect to the private walkway on the north side of the Greenway trench. We strongly support the continued exploration of shared street design that builds off the design at 29th Street at Aldrich Avenue.

Vice Chair Phil Ailiff called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

Aaron moved the agenda, Barbara seconded. Approved.

Affirmation of Office—Assistant City Clerk

The clerk handed out the necessary papers, which we signed after taking the oath.

Minneapolis Draft Comprehensive Plan—Jack Byers & Adrienne Bockheim

State law requires the City to draft a Comprehensive Plan at regular intervals, and turn it in to the Metropolitan Council. The Met Council's Systems Statement addresses transit, sewer, housing, parks, population and land use; the City addresses these basic issues and many more. As the city's population is expected to climb to 465,000 in 2020, the Met Council wants to know how City government will meet the needs of a larger population.

CPED asked repeatedly, of citizens and stakeholders: What do you want the City to do, and not to do, and to have, in 2040? CPED especially wants the PAC to look at the Action Steps in the draft plan, and judge whether those steps will help the City meet the goals that the Plan sets out.

Another set of hearings before the City Council is scheduled in October and November. The plan is due at the Met Council by December 31.

Julia Tabbut read a resolution (#1 above); Aaron seconded. Approved.

Orientation to the PAC—Matthew Dyr Dahl

Matthew asked everyone present to respond to the following questions:

New Members: what are you most looking forward to about serving on the PAC?

Old Members: what has been your favorite part of serving on the PAC?

All: what is your favorite place to walk in Minneapolis?

Afterward, Matthew explained the PAC's purpose, structure and the expectations of members.

Pride Crosswalk Marking in Ward 7—Samantha Landvik, Twin Cities Pride

To celebrate Pride weekend, Samantha's group painted a rainbow crosswalk near Loring Park. The group wants to make that crosswalk permanent, but has experienced opposition.

Christian: this is public art, some of which is paid for out of city funds. Why is this different?

MD: the Public Works department supports white zebra crosswalks.

Suzanne: I'll help navigate this installation.

Samantha: the group opposing installation was, we think, too small to represent public opinion. We have begun collecting signatures on a petition.

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

Approval of the Minutes

Julia Tabbut moved the minutes for June; Curran seconded. Approved.

Officer Elections—Matthew Dyr Dahl

Chair Julia Curran nominated Julia Tabbut for chair; Barb seconded. Approved.

Vice Chair Curran nominated Christian Huelsman for Vice Chair; Aaron seconded.
 Julia T. nominated Phil Ailiff; Curran seconded.
 Christian Huelsman won, and is elected for one year.

Secretary Phil nominated Neal Baxter for Secretary; Christian seconded. Approved.

P & P Committee co-chairs Christian nominated Julia Curran; Neal seconded.
 Curran nominated Peter Vader; Barbara Olson seconded. Approved.

I & E Committee co-chairs Curran nominated Aaron; Barbara seconded.
 Julia Tabbut nominated Barbara; Phil seconded.
 Phil nominated Paul St. Martin; Aaron seconded.
 Aaron & Barbara won, and are elected for one year.

Hennepin Downtown Intersection Design Meetings—Julia Tabbut
 Meetings will be held on August 2 and September 13, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM, about what to do with these intersections. The City wants PAC members to attend. Please let Julia Tabbut know if you are interested.

Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee Meeting—Peter Vader
 We looked at the 28th Avenue bridge project first. The project is much improved, with tighter traffic lanes and a bike path along the Creek bed that will cross under the 28th Avenue bridge. Peter read the resolution (#5 above); Aaron seconded. Approved.
 Paul asked how the 28th Avenue bike path will connect with the Minnehaha Creek path.

Next we looked at the City/County Marshall Street Feasibility Study. The condition of Marshall here is poor. More trips are expected, as resident population rises and the attractions in the vicinity draw more people in. The area has high parking demand a few hours per week, low demand otherwise. Both the City and the County are pondering shared use agreements to meet that demand.
 Christian mentioned the committee discussed a desire to break up the corridor to reduce speeds and aid navigation of the area.
 Peter read the resolution #6 above); Paul seconded. Approved.

Next, the 3rd Avenue Bridge. Peter read a resolution (#7 above); Aaron seconded. Approved.

We discussed the bridge over the tracks at Fremont & 29th Street, too. Discussion included rebuilding the bridge for pedestrians and bikes only. The engineer cited the build up along 29th Street as a reason to rebuild the bridge for motor vehicles. Julia Curran read resolution #8 above; Phil seconded. Approved.

Programs & Policies Subcommittee Meeting—Christian Huelsman
 Two resolutions came out of the committee last month. The first is a resolution of support for the bumpout on Chicago & 7th Street, which enjoyed a trial run last winter. Julia Tabbut read the resolution (#2 above); Neal seconded. Approved.

Our second resolution is a response to a policy framed last fall, focusing on pedestrian traffic on the Nicollet Mall. This policy came to Christian's attention recently, and he shared his concern with the PAC. Julia Tabbut read resolution #4; Aaron seconded. Approved.

Neal moved to adjourn; Christian seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 6:10 PM.