



DRAFT MINUTES

City of Flagstaff PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 3, 2014
4:30 pm

City Hall, Staff Conference Room
211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm. On roll call, the following Committee members were present:

Kim Austin, co-chair
Heather Taylor, co-chair
Joyce Browning
Georgia Duncan
Adam Langford
Cecile LeBlanc
Jim Tuck

Members absent:

None

The following City staff was present:

Martin Ince, multimodal planner
Stephanie Stearns, Montoya Fellowship intern

Others present:

Matt Baldwin
Gaia Newton
Shawn Thomas, Coconino County Public Health Services District
Jack Welch

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Mr. Tuck expressed a concern that businesses are doing major renovations but not bringing the building into compliance with ADA. He also reported that the Museum repaved their parking lot and the accessible spaces meet dimensional requirements.

Mr. Langford reported that NAIPTA provided free transit and extended hours (until 1:15 am) on last year's New Year's Eve. It was successful, and they are planning on doing it again this year.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Thomas introduced himself as the new health policy analyst at the Coconino County Public Health Services District.

Gaia Newton, who is 10 years old and in the fifth grade at Marshall Elementary, addressed the Committee about the crosswalk at Humphreys and Cherry. She said that the crossing is right next to a school, so kids have to cross the street to get to the school, but no one stops for walkers in the crosswalk. She said the Cherry is also considered a bike route but the crossing at Humphreys is not safe. She proposed installing a push-button flashing light, like Humphreys and Butler.

The committee thanked Ms. Newton and asked if more information could be provided about ADOT's policies and process for installing flashing lights. Warrants for pedestrian activity are difficult to meet because pedestrians will avoid the crossing if it feels unsafe.

3. Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from the meeting of October 9, 2014, were not ready in advance of the meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Pedestrian master planning process

Ms. Stearns and Mr. Ince provided detailed results from the walking and biking survey. Mr. Ince said Ms. Stearns has done an excellent job organizing a massive amount of data from the survey. This evening a lot of very detailed information from the survey will be presented, and they want to hear the Committee's thoughts and questions. They will continue to pull useful information from the survey for the stakeholders and the public.

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The Committee asked questions and made comments about the survey results:

- Do drivers take advantage of the countdown pedestrian signals by speeding up when the countdown approaches zero? Do the countdowns assist pedestrians, or does it cause some anxiety?
- Traffic speed and volume seem to be a consistent problem. What can the City do to control traffic better?
- Regarding the number of concerns about transients and other individuals, there is a new City ordinance prohibiting alcohol in parks, but is it being enforced?
- The Committee asked if Tom Boughner could be present at future meetings.
- There was a lengthy discussion about two stage crossings, like the one at Humphreys and Butler, which require pedestrians to push the button again in the middle. The Committee said that few people realize they must do this to get the flashing lights for the second stage of the crossing. Although there is a small sign next to the button, most people don't see it. Also, a pedestrian cannot tell if the lights are flashing from where they stand, so they may not be aware that the warning lights are not flashing as they prepare to cross. Mr. Ince said that the two-stage crossings are typically used to minimize the length of time that traffic is stopped. One solution might be automatic detection in the middle, so the signal is activated without the need to push the button. Education for pedestrians may also be beneficial.
- There is a lot of interest in having a street closure for a Sunday parkway or cyclovia type event. A first Friday art walk would be a good opportunity. How do we go about making it happen?
- The Committee talked about the possibility of having a combined PAC and BAC meeting, to review the results of the survey and find common ground.

III. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Reports

There was no discussion on the Reports.

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2. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.