

## Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Present: Philip Ailiff, Greta Alquist, Neal Baxter, Shaina Brassard, Alex Cecchini, Julie Curran, Bob Loken, Donna Hemp, Tamir Ali Mohamud, Dan Herber, Don Ostrom, Julia Tabbut; Mackenzie Turner, Sarah Stewart, Joe Bernard, Sarah Stewart, Gina Mitteco, Julie Danzl, Heidi Schallberg, Kelly Yemen, Steve Mahowald (for Mike Mechtenberg).

### Welcome

Chairman Greta called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

### Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Phil moved the minutes; Donna seconded. Approved.

### Open Streets Minneapolis—Ginny Herman, Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition

This will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year of Open Streets festivities, and we're planning 8 events. Lyndale, Franklin, Nicollet, North East, East Lake Street, West Broadway, downtown and the U of M area will all feature Open Streets days. The streets are chosen by the Open Streets staff with the help of community businesses, neighborhood associations and residents. Looking closely at these thoroughfares while planning the events helps all involved focus on how to improve the street's usefulness. Also useful to consider for each event is the intersection or stretch of road which poses the most problems during Open Streets. Ginny then explained each of the 8 events for 2016. Questions followed.

Alex: has Open Streets considered allowing very restricted auto traffic along a block or two, to demonstrate improvements?

GH: No, but that would be beneficial.

Donna: how can you help the blind enjoy Open Streets?

Julia C: Open Streets can also serve to remind bikers how to handle themselves around pedestrians.

Kelly: note that Franklin will be under construction around Cedar Avenue this summer.

GH: whoops, we'll have to come up with a solution during Open Streets.

MTB: PAC should put together volunteers from the Pedestrian Alliance on a few of these routes, and build strategic show pieces to demonstrate solutions.

Dan: Open Streets as a street festival is to be avoided in favor of using the event to envision a car-free future and demonstrate new ideas for pedestrian-friendly streets.

GH: we agree. Give your ideas to Matthew Dyr Dahl, please.

### Programs & Policies Subcommittee—Shaina Brassard

We have several resolutions for your consideration. First, a resolution about the new urban forestry policy.

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee feels that the changes to the Urban Forestry Policy better support practices that improved the city's streets and sidewalks for pedestrians. The PAC recommends that city leadership approve the updated draft.

Neal seconded. **Approved.**

Next, congregating.

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee supports the Repeal of Congregating on streets or sidewalks ordinance.

Julia T. seconded. **Approved.**

The last is about “the barriers to walking” that seniors face.

Re: **Resolution Regarding** “Barriers to Walking for Public Housing High Rise Residents”

Date: March 2, 2016

#### Background:

As part of its Healthy Living initiative, the Minneapolis Health Department works with residents of Minneapolis Public Housing Authority highrise buildings to improve physical activity opportunities in and near the highrises. The Health Department works on this project in partnership with the Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council (MHRC), the MPHA highrise tenant organization, and its Active Living Advisory Committee. Together, MHRC and the Health Department have led a process to gather resident input on exercise equipment in their buildings, falls prevention programming, and the walking environment around their buildings (the focus of this report). The purpose of this report is to summarize residents' input about the walking environment around highrise buildings, including identifying residents' barriers to walking and using transit and describing specific infrastructure challenges identified by residents.

In 2015, the MHRC's Active Living Advisory Committee presented the study's findings to the PAC.

#### PAC Resolution

Whereas most of the 5,000 highrise building residents are seniors and people with disabilities, and most depend on active transportation and transit to get around and meet their needs.

Whereas city of Minneapolis Goals and Strategic Direction (adopted 3/28/14) include:

- Living well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life
- One Minneapolis: Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper

The PAC fully supports the findings of the study, Barriers to Walking for Public Housing High Rise Residents. The PAC looks forward to advising city

leadership and Public Works staff on the implementation of solutions to remove the barriers identified therein.

Alex seconded. **Approved.**

Also, we noticed the absence of pedestrian-driven projects in this year's Regional Solicitation application. So we drew up a list of our own which can serve to start PAC's selection of suitable projects.

Steve Hay took the committee through the scoring for the Solicitation, too. PAC will need to consider the scoring when we propose projects next time. Gina Mitteco is setting up a committee which will look at this problem and propose a list, too.

We also took a look at Development and zoning. We've asked Bob Loken to describe, at our next meeting, how developers work with the City. And we will ask staff to talk with us about changing zoning in the Overlay Districts.

Alex: how can PAC help shape the way the Comprehensive Plan is re-written?

Joe B.: at the April meeting I'll give an overview of the work on the Plan. Working groups are tackling various issues now. Start weighing in whenever you have an idea. Don't wait for the groups to ask for suggestions.

#### PAC/BAC Resolution

Matthew Hendricks, formerly of the BAC, presented the reasons for this resolution. Reports on projects don't now show what the PAC & BAC had to say about them, and so the public has no idea what our critique was. The change proposed in the resolution would add useful information and transparency to material relating to Public Works projects. Lisa Bender and the City Clerk's office both approve of the change.

Joe B: this will also ensure that all staff see the PAC early in project development.

The resolution was moved by Phil, and seconded by Alex.

#### PAC Resolutions

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommends to city leadership and the City Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee to amend the Request for Committee Action (RCA) template to include the following for all items involving streets or trails:

#### Advisory Committee Review

Date(s) presented to PAC:

Date(s) presented to BAC:

If any motions were passed by the PAC or BAC related to this project, include motion language (and date of motion) here:

**Approved.**

#### Infrastructure & Engineering Subcommittee—Bob Loken

We covered a lot of ground this month. First we heard about a project which would add more signs along the Midtown Greenway, thus improving way finding and access.

Steve Hay presented the project to adapt the freeway exit that now takes traffic from I-94 onto 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Beginning in August 2016, the bridge will be reconfigured to carry traffic between Brian Coyle park and 5<sup>th</sup> Street, across I-35W. The bridge will include 2 lanes of auto traffic, dedicated ped and bike lanes and will not be widened. The bridge already carrying pedestrians across I-35W at 6<sup>th</sup> St. will remain in place. Scott Engel asked whether this bridge hadn't been offered as a non-motor traffic bridge. Steve said no, and speed bumps won't feature either, as this is an MSA route.

A long discussion followed:

Julia C: as usual, this plan falls back on the City's default plan, which is to include cars.

Donna: the blind will need separation of bikes from pedestrians.

Neal moved to table the resolution; Julia Tabbutt seconded. **Not approved.** Greta moved the following resolution; Bob seconded.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee does not support the 5<sup>th</sup> Street/Samatar crossing project as presented because of insufficient width to accommodate separate facilities for bikes and pedestrians and concern about impacts to pedestrians on 6<sup>th</sup> Street South, a heavily used pedestrian environment. **Approved.**

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Update

This project is moving very quickly, and has changed somewhat. We recommended removing police parking next to City Hall in order to widen the sidewalk. Staff said that can still happen. Alex seconded the following resolution:

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee reiterates our support for improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities on the full east side of the 400 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S, adjacent to City Hall. **Approved.**

#### First Avenue North—Mackenzie Turner Borgen

The City will re-stripe the bike lane on First Avenue in the standard place, to avoid confusion and maintain a consistent path.

Also, a proposal is afloat to allow "street cafes" to use parking lane spaces the way parklets do, only remaining private property.

Neal moved to adjourn; Alex seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 6:01 PM.

On March 29, 2016, the PAC voted on the following resolution by e-mail (moved by Shaina and seconded by Don):

Re: **Complete Streets Policy**

Date: March 29, 2016

The Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) largely supports the Complete Streets Policy as presented on 3/15/16. This document represents an extraordinary amount of work on behalf of DPW and great progress forward for the city of Minneapolis in providing a framework that allows walking, bicycling, and taking transit to be the priorities they must be in a vibrant, thriving twenty-first century city.

The PAC recommends to the policymaker work group that a few areas need to be worked on before final presentation and passage.

1. Under Planning (last paragraph)
  - Community engagement language must be stronger than “when appropriate and accessible”. It also must include language around transparency and equitable engagement.
2. Under Exemptions
  - The exact language is critical in this section and needs work to uphold the principles outlined in the policy. The PAC recommends:

“When adopted city plans and goals call for facilities following the modal priority framework, and a proposed project does not include those facilities for the modal priority framework- an exemption will be required from the City Council based upon the following list:”

**Approved.**