

Minutes of the
Montpelier Pedestrian Committee
Meeting of November 24, 2015

Members Present: Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Chair; Erin Aguayo, Tom Aloisi, Anne Ferguson, Erica Garfin, Jim McQueston, Mark Provost, John Snell and Harris Webster

Others Present: Corey Line

Public Comments

There were no comments from members of the general public in attendance.

Agenda

The members discussed and approved an agenda for the meeting.

Minutes

The members approved the minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2015.

Rules for Placing Large Items on Sidewalk

Harris Webster reported that he had checked with the City on the rules for placing large items, such as furniture or planters, on a sidewalk. In general, any placement of items on a sidewalk should leave at least a five foot wide passageway for pedestrians. Parties seeking to situate items such as planters or furniture on the sidewalk must first obtain a permit from the Planning Department. The rules are enforced by the Department of Public Works, and any complaints should be made to the DPW.

Winter Safety – Pedestrian Visibility

Erin Aguayo reported on her research on the cost of obtaining small lights that pedestrians could wear on a jacket or coat to make them more visible to motorists after dark. The members discussed the merits of these lights versus reflective “slapwraps” worn around the arm or leg. Erin offered to research the cost and availability of slapwraps. The members discussed how visibility aids could be distributed in such a way as to get them to the pedestrians who need and would use them.

Technology Tools

The members discussed information previously provided to them by Laura Biren on SeeClickFix, an electronic tool which would permit the public to easily communicate with the DPW about various types of problem areas in the City’s streets and sidewalks. The members requested information on an alternative called Request Tracker, and John Snell agreed to work

with Laura to evaluate that alternative and report back to the Committee. The members discussed the benefit of getting the community involved in monitoring the conditions of the City's streets and sidewalks, and the concerns about the need for resources at the DPW to monitor and respond to the information once it is filed by members of the community.

Eminent Domain Proceedings for the M&M Beverage Lot

Eve Jacobs-Carnahan alerted the members that there would be a December 14 hearing on this matter. John Snell described the plan for the shared use path from Taylor Street to Main Street that involves the use of that particular property. The members agreed that this was not a matter on which the Committee should take a position, but that individual members were certainly entitled to voice their opinions as individuals, either at the hearing or in communications with members of the City Council.

Transportation Advisory Committee

Eve Jacobs-Carnahan reported on the November meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee. She noted that one area of future action for that committee was to set the parameters for the use of the monies in the Alternative Transportation Fund.

In the discussion that followed, the members developed a list of the items for which the Pedestrian Committee would like to see the Alternative Transportation Fund used. The members then prioritized those items, with the first three listed below being the Committee's top priority.

Outreach and Education

- Walking maps of the City
- Walking promotion items, both electronic and hardcopy

Data Collection

- Reporting problems with sidewalks and walking conditions
- Learning about pedestrian habits and reasons for walking

Open Street Events

Special Extra Safety Improvements

Minor Infrastructure Improvements

- Water fountains
- Handrails
- Restroom facilities

Landscape to Enhance Walking

Leverage for other funds to implement Montpelier in Motion projects

National Life Drive

The Committee asked Corey Line to convey to DPW staff its appreciation for the work done on National Life Drive to enhance pedestrian safety.

2016 Goals

The members endorsed the idea of setting goals for the Committee for 2016. Erin Aguayo agreed to work with Eve Jacobs-Carnahan on leading the discussion of those goals at the next meeting, which is to be held on December 22, 2015 at 5:15 p.m.