

Minutes of the
Montpelier Pedestrian Committee
Meeting of January 27, 2015

Members Present: Chris Andresen, Chair, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Anne Ferguson, Jim McQueston, Mike Philbrick, and John Snell

Others Present: Hannah Reckhow

Minutes

The members approved the minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2014.

Agenda

The members discussed and approved an agenda for the meeting.

Montpelier in Motion

The members were updated on the final draft of the proposed master plan for pedestrian and bike projects in Montpelier. Members were asked to attend the City Council meeting where this plan will be discussed for adoption by the City.

Joint Committee Meeting

Eve Jacobs-Carnahan reported to the Committee on a meeting of representatives of the Parking, Bike, Pedestrian, and Energy Committees intended to enhance the communication among the committees regarding matters of overlapping interest. For future meetings of this group, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan and John Snell agreed to serve as representatives of the Pedestrian Committee.

2015 Goals

The members discussed and developed a list of possible committee goals for 2015. A list of the possible goals will be circulated to committee members for discussion at future Committee meetings in order to refine and finalize those goals.

Winter Walk Day

Eve Jacobs-Carnahan noted that February 4 is Winter Walk Day in Montpelier. She indicated that the organizers were seeking volunteers to assist with the program, which will consist of six walking school bus groups of elementary school students going to Union Elementary School.

Current Problems

The members discussed several problem areas connected to the season. With the shorter days, pedestrian visibility is a significant issue. There was a discussion of possible measures to communicate with and educate pedestrians on steps they could take to make themselves more visible to drivers and to walk mindfully when it's dark.

Clogged storm drains and major puddles at crosswalks represent a significant problem for pedestrians during the winter. There was a discussion of whether there might be ways to deal with this issue outside of those traditionally used by the City, which, despite some significant efforts by City employees, don't seem to solve the problem.

Finally, the members discussed their on-going concern about the hazardous situation created because crosswalks essentially disappear once snow arrives and snowplowing begins.