

Minutes of the
Montpelier Pedestrian Committee
Meeting of July 22, 2014

Members Present: Chris Andresen, Chair, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Jim McQueston, John Snell, and Harris Webster

Others Present: Alex Prolman and Hannah Reckhow

Minutes

The members approved the minutes of the meetings of February 25, 2014 and March 25, 2014.

Pedestrian / Bike Master Plan

The Committee's appointees to the steering committee working on the Pedestrian / Bike master plan, Eve, Jim and John, described the working sessions and public session that had occurred so far. The project is called "Montpelier in Motion." There has been a substantial amount of data collection on items related to pedestrian and biking issues in Montpelier. This data, contained in a draft report, may be viewed at www.broadreachpd.com (accessed in the Montpelier in Motion folder under the "Projects" heading). Based on this data and input provided at the public session, the steering committee has developed a number of possible educational, policy, and infrastructure projects for evaluation for inclusion in the Master Plan. It is expected that an initial draft master plan will be ready in September for additional work by the steering committee and then for additional public input.

Members were encouraged to review, in particular, the sidewalk gaps map included in that material to identify any gaps that needed to be added.

There was discussion about the fact that a good deal of advance publicity will be needed if there is to be any meaningful public attendance at any meetings about Montpelier in Motion. Hope was expressed that such a comprehensive publicity plan could be developed soon so that it would be ready to implement as the time approached for the public meetings. The members noted that the city has many avenues that would be productive but that employing others may also be warranted and useful.

Walk Friendly Communities Application

It was reported that there has been no information received with regard to the City's application.

Crosswalks

There was discussion of a report that the City would be using a new type of more durable crosswalk marking in a limited number of locations. Chris agreed to follow-up with the Department of Public Works to obtain more information.

Organized Walks for Foliage Season

The members discussed and agreed that the Committee should coordinate a number of organized walks focused on the 2014 peak foliage season, the last week of September and the first week of October. Possible examples of activities were group walks focused on Montpelier's trees and on Montpelier's history, and a new story walk. There was discussion of the advisability of coordinating with Montpelier Alive to determine what events it was aware of during that period and to participate in any publicity that they would be preparing for foliage season.

Capital Improvements Projects Committee

It was noted that when the Committee delivered its Walk Friendly application to the City Council, the Committee's members were invited to attend the Capital Improvement Projects committee meetings where relevant infrastructure projects will be discussed. Harris agreed to find out and report back on the scheduled dates for future CIP committee meetings.

Sidewalk Assessment

One of the areas covered by the data collection items in the Montpelier in Motion materials concerned assessment of the state of the City's sidewalks. Concern was expressed that the City might not be fully utilizing the sidewalk assessment data collected by Harris and those working with him. Harris agreed that he would talk with the Department of Public Works about ways in which his assessment efforts could be integrated into the City's data needs.