

Minutes of the
Montpelier Pedestrian Committee
Meeting of May 28, 2013

Members Present: Chris Andresen, Chair, Anne Ferguson, Jim McQueston, John Snell, and Harris Webster

Others Present: Drew DeVitis, Carolyn Stone

Governance Items.

The members agreed that Harris Webster will lead meetings when Chris Andersen is absent, and that Jim McQueston will serve as Secretary.

Crosswalks.

There was a discussion about the visibility and maintenance of crosswalks. It was agreed that Chris Andersen should request the Department of Public Works to send a representative to the Committee's next meeting to discuss the Department's views and experience on crosswalk issues. Anne Ferguson and John Snell will serve as a working group to develop an issues list from members' input for that discussion.

Committee Communications.

There was a discussion of how to communicate the Committee's work to the public. It was agreed that at this point, the Committee's agenda and minutes should be posted to the Committee's page on the City website. It was also agreed that an appropriate goal would be to have a tentative agenda posted no later than 4 days prior to each meeting.

Sidewalk Monitoring.

Harris Webster described the sidewalk monitoring program that had been developed previously. Among items covered in the discussion were the process and criteria used in developing reports based on the results of the sidewalk monitoring, how the criteria were applied to concrete and asphalt sidewalks, and the potential for the program to enhance accountability and assist the City in planning for capital improvements. The members agreed that it would be very useful to invite the Department of Public Works to send a representative to a future Committee meeting to discuss sidewalk maintenance issues in general, winter maintenance issues in particular, and any ways in which the sidewalk monitoring reports could be made more useful to the DPW. The members agreed that the sidewalk monitoring program was a valuable component of the Committee's goals and should be continued.

Pedestrian Friendly City Designation

It was noted that one of the Committee's charges from the City Council was to promote the designation of Montpelier as a "pedestrian friendly city." After discussion of the need for further research as to what this entailed, Drew DeVitis offered to obtain the appropriate checklist material and distribute it to the members.

Encouragement of Walking

It was noted that another charge to the Committee was to encourage the act of walking in Montpelier. Anne Ferguson showed the members a walking map developed by another city as an example of what the Committee might do. After discussion, it was agreed that the checklist that Drew DeVitis would be distributing might provide useful ideas for actions the Committee could take in this regard.

Public Input

The members welcomed public attendee Carolyn Stone, and invited her comments. She indicated that she had a particular concern with the lack of center line pedestrian crossing signage at the City Hall crosswalk. She related a helpful conversation she had had with the Montpelier Policy Department about actions citizens can take when encountering violations of crosswalk rules by motorists. The members felt that it would be useful if that information could be more widely publicized.

There was a general discussion of how the Committee could solicit public input to assist it in establishing its goals and priorities.
