



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2014**

The Pedestrian Advisory convened in a regular meeting on May 5, 2014 at 721 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas.

Peter Baird
Janet Beinke
Ken Craig
Nancy Crowther
Betty Dickson
Valerie Fruge
Dan Keshet
Girard Kinney

Guests in Attendance:

Ramah Leith
Nathan Lynch
Nic Moe
Joel Meyer
Carmen de la Morena
Marva Overton
Daniela Radpay
Emily Risinger

Delfin Salazar
Alix Scarborough
Michael Sledge
Luke Urie
Ed Wallace
Heyden Walker
Virginia Wilkinson

Robert Anderson
Lawrence Deeter

Staff in Attendance:

Pamela Larson
Katie Mulholland
Francis Reilly

Kathy Rock
Caitlin White

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS (6:00 to 6:05)

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL (6:05 to 6:08)

The first 3 speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (6:08 to 6:10)

Ms. Crowther made a motion to approve. Mr. Salazar seconded April minutes' approval.

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS (6:10 to 6:15)

A. Bicycle Advisory Council / Urban Transportation Commission

No BAC Staff present, Gordon Derr did not provide updates from UTC meeting 3 weeks prior.

6. NEW BUSINESS (6:15 to 7:30)

A. Complete Streets Policy– Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Gordon Derr, Assistant Director, Austin Transportation Director

City Council passed a resolution for the Complete Streets Policy, which Robert Anderson (PDRD) and Katherine Gregor (ATD) worked on researching best practices. Cross-departmental input and steering committee have worked to put together a Complete Streets policy to take to Council on 5/22/2014.

Complete Streets Scope:

- For all users of all ages
- Applies in all projects and all phases for transportation system
- Require connected travel networks

66% of Americans want more options for transportation 73% feel like their only option is to drive. 39% of trips are under 3 miles, and 17% are less than a mile, of which 47% are driven. People are more likely to walk to church or school than they are to work. Once distance gets up to 3-4 miles few are willing to walk.

Benefits:

- CS increase capacity of our roadways which can't expand
- Offer affordability; transportation is 18% of a family's budget

Mr. Derr exhibited examples of Austin's infrastructure, such as cycle tracks (which have raised bicycling rates to 15-20% for school travel), Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, Pfluger Pedestrian Bridge, Bus Rapid Transit and protected bikeways.

Proposal is to get the policy adopted as a resolution, and when adopted, Staff will look at what changes in Code and Criteria Manual need to be made. Likelihood is that Staff will return to PAC in late summer early Fall for review.

Mr. Wallace asked that all classes of users be assessed at the same time of project proposal; view a project on Route 23 where lanes were strictly restriped as there is not existing sidewalks. Bicycle Coordinator position is now posted for Austin as Bicycle Program is now in ATD.

Mr. Kinney asked how existing neighborhoods lacking infrastructure will be treated.

Mr. Keshet asked about the removal of street standards. Mr. Derr responded that these technical aspects will be brought back to City Manager's Office after the policy is adopted, especially ones which enable effective implementation in different contexts. Mr. Kinney asked that contexts be expanded to include nature trails and private drives as all offer transportation throughout the community; Ms. Crowther requested that spirit of accessibility and ADA be better knit into regulations through "accessibility", "access", etc.

Mr. Derr asked that where improvements can be made, please identify the specific locations and share this information with Mr. Anderson to share with staff working on Complete Streets policy.

For matters regarding maintaining the right-of-way (such as tree clearance) the City's Public Works Department is responsible; call 311 for upkeep. Mr. Salazar asked about landscaping which is in right-of-way where there is no sidewalk and who is responsible. Mr. Derr responded that this may be homeowner responsibility.

Looking to best practices for Green Streets, Dallas and San Francisco are identified leaders, but, most cities are strictly managing stormwater for green streets. Mr. Baird asked for the “probable use” to be rephrased for “probable present and future use” to accommodate future development. Mr. Derr brought up that the 20% financial barrier used to nix the implementation of complete streets, and this has been removed. Mr. Kinney mentioned that though the cost of the infrastructure and it not being used for 20 years may not seem a good investment, however, the time and the cost in the future to improve this will be greater.

Mr. Anderson asked about the overlapping but competing needs of complete streets, green streets, etc. Mr. Derr responded that they may need to create a hierarchy of Mr. Anderson asked if they can be greater involved; Mr. Derr mentioned that with the backgrounds of the PAC it would be good to continue to work together.

Ms. Risinger stated that she would like more time. Mr. Anderson volunteered that the PAC may (1) take action, (2) call a special meeting (3) work on Complete Streets Policy in a working group (4) do nothing and respond at the June meeting. Mr. Kinney made a motion to make a decision on this when a formal body is established. Ms. Risinger seconded the motion.

B. PAC Elections

Mr. Anderson asked those who are running to provide a 30-second overview of her/his area of geographic expertise, qualifications, constituency membership and areas of interest. As there are more individuals running than seats available nine (9) full, and up to ten (10) alternates.

Mr. Anderson read from the bylaws which recommend, but, do not require, members to be diverse in terms of age, geography, abilities, organizational representation. Terms serve through October 2015, and in October 5 of the seats will be up for voting. Current election will not count towards Officer term-limits.

Those running for *full* or *both* membership election provided a 30-45 second overview of credentials.

Those elected as full members include:

- Nancy Crowther
- Valerie Fruge
- Joe Almazan
- Peter Baird
- Ramah Leith
- Nic Moe
- Delfin Salazar
- Emily Risinger
- Heyden Black Walker

Remaining candidates running as an *alternate* membership provided a 30-45 second overview of her and his credentials.

Ed Wallace made a motion to allow all remaining candidates who are running, including Mr. Keshet who selected only to run for full membership, to be alternate members. Mr. Kinney mentioned that this could be an amendment to the bylaws and would be temporary until the October elections.

Those elected as alternate members include:

- Dan Keshet
- Janet Beinke
- Ken Craig
- Jessica Lemann
- Nathan Lynch
- Joel Meyer
- Carmen de la Morena-Chu
- Kathy Rock
- Michael Sledge
- Luke Urie
- Virginia Wilkinson
- Girard Kinney
- Marva Overton

7. OLD BUSINESS (7:30 to 7:50)

A. Land Development Code Working Group

Presentation by: Robert Anderson, Planning and Development Review

Mr. Kinney asked if a draft of the Land Development Code Recommendations has been distributed.

Staff is postponing this item and will reschedule after input from the BAC with a final working group session before the June meeting.

8. FUTURE BUSINESS (7:50 to 7:55)

A. APD Enforcement

Staff met with Officer Malanka to discuss an educational campaign. Officer Malanka will come to the PAC and BAC when he finalizes more details on the educational campaign.

B. Agency Representatives and community liaisons

A future meeting will consider agency representation and community liaisons.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:55 to 8:00)

- Jeff Speck (chair or appointee invited to participate in workshop Wednesday).
- Ross Complex Subdivision. Zoning and Platting Commission voted 3-2 to deny a variance request to Subdivision Regulations Connectivity Requirements. PAC recommended against the granting of this variance. At the Zoning and Platting Commission meeting, PAC members Gerard Kinney and Heyden Black Walker spoke to the ZAP on the needs to connect the street fully. Mr. Kinney mentioned that the PAC's involvement with Ross Subdivision case is a major success in making that road a complete street.
- Summer meeting locations:
 - June 2: Town Lake Center
 - July 7: George Carver Library, room 2, 1165 Angelina St.
 - Aug 4: Twin Oaks Branch Library, rooms 1 & 2, 1800 S Fifth St.
 - Sept 1: Labor Day!!! Need to re-schedule
- Mr. Anderson distributed poll cards for Full Voting Members to elect a chair and vice chair. The elected Chair is Heyden Black Walker.
Revisit Vice-Chair due to lack of clarity on order of votes cast.
- Complete Streets policy. Mr. Anderson will call a Special Meeting and will ensure to the extent that a quorum will be met of the Voting members.
- Remote viewing (capable, but does this satisfy the in-person bylaw requirement?)

Ms. Leith made a motion to allow for remote attendance. Mr. Craig seconded the motion. PAC agreed to amend bylaws and to allow for remote viewing.

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Robert Anderson at Planning and Development Review Department, at (512) 974-6405, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Pedestrian Advisory Council, please contact Robert Anderson at (512) 974-6405 or robert.anderson2@austintexas.gov.