



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
June 2, 2014**

The Pedestrian Advisory convened in a regular meeting on June 2, 2014 at 721 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas.

Elected Members in Attendance

Peter Baird
Janet Beinke
Ken Craig
Nancy Crowther
Valerie Fruge

Girard Kinney
Ramah Leith
Nic Moe
Carmen de la Morena
Emily Risinger

Kathy Rock
Delfin Salazar
Heyden Walker
Virginia Wilkinson

Guests in Attendance:

Leo Anderson
Harriet Bogucki
Will Bozeman

Betty Dickson
Gwen Jewiss
Daniela Radpay

Ed Wallace
Ross Wilson

Staff in Attendance:

Robert Anderson
Lawrence Deeter
Kristy Hansen

Pamela Larson
Katie Mulholland

Francis Reilly
Caitlin White

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 6:09p.m.

Janet Beinke and Ken Craig will serve as alternates for the two vacant full members. Revision:
Valerie Fruge arrived after call to order and retrieved the full membership position from Mr. Craig.

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.

No one signed up to speak for citizen communication.

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

Ms. Risinger identified an incomplete sentence on Page 3. Ms. Risinger made the motion to approve minutes with the completion of the sentence and Mr. Moe seconded. There was no dissent.

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

A. Bicycle Advisory Council / Urban Transportation Commission

No members of the BAC and UTC were present.

6. NEW BUSINESS (6:15 to 6:35)

A. Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking – Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Kristy Hansen, Health and Human Services Department

Ms. Hansen is serving on U.S. Surgeon General Admiral Boris Lushniak's Call to Action on Walking and Walkability Communication and Dissemination Planning Committee (C&D Committee), which will focus on walkable environments more than the need to walk a certain minimum amount of time. The Surgeon General's Call to Action is already written and is being vetted by 3 different federal agencies; it will be released publicly before the November elections.

Much of the national communication surrounding the Call to Action will come from Everybody Walks, a national organization funded by Kaiser Permanente. The release will be accompanied by a communication plan, including non-traditional methods such as walking press releases. Ms. Hansen mentioned that the principle concern is that there needs to be *action* with this Call to Action. Ms. Hansen mentioned that local groups will be the largest partners to bring that action, and she will likely be the point of contact being part of the National Physical Activity Society.

A present potential action by the PAC includes agreeing to support the Call to Action when it is public, and decide the methods of action as they arise. Ms. Hansen mentioned that C & D Committee conference calls occur every 3-4 weeks and she can share more information as it comes forward.

Ms. Wallace asked about examples of events. Ms. Hansen mentioned hosting walks on the trail (as already done by the City). Ms. De La Morena asked about what type of built environment changes will be made. Ms. Hansen clarified that as a public health document this will not have technical guidance on built environment changes, but will share information of what different groups and organizations (businesses, individuals, etc.) can do to implement the Call to Action. Ms. Hansen affirmed that the strength of the implementation lies with the local group as how items may be implemented. Ms. Hansen is able to post to the Google Group.

Ms. Jewiss asked about what outreach has been done, and mentioned the Land Development Code rewrite team may be interested.

Chair Walker mentioned that it may be early in the game to take action since they have not seen the document, but, there is a lot of support.

Ms. Mulholland asked about the timeline for Viva Streets. Ms. Larson mentioned that the next Viva Streets would be in the fall, with a community organization going to head the efforts. Ms. Larson also mentioned that the International Park(ing) Day is September 19th, where parking spaces are converted into temporary parklets.

B. Cima Homes Subdivision – Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by Ross Wilson, PSW

Mr. Wilson identified the 2.7 acre property which is northeast of Anderson High School and east of Hill Elementary, west of Mopac and south of 183. The project proposes 16 homes built on 16 individual lots, using SF-3 (8 fee-simple duplex lots which meet minimum 7,000sf requirement), continuing Honeysuckle Trail south to Cima Serena (at present Honeysuckle is a dead-end). Honeysuckle will have sidewalks on both sides to connect to Cima Serena and continue sidewalks on property along Cima Serena. Homes are 2,000-2,300sf. Original rear drainage area was widened to construct an alley allowing the duplexes to be rear-loaded in the back (half of the duplexes will be rear-loaded).

Mr. Wilson mentioned that the neighborhood expressed concern against the design, asking for cul-de-sac design since the neighborhood context is all cul-de-sacs. Mr. Wilson mentioned that when Honeysuckle (stub-street to the north) was constructed it was intended to go through, as Honeysuckle Trail was not constructed as a cul-de-sac.

Mr. Salazar asked for clarification on whether the developer is looking for support for a variance. Mr. Anderson clarified that the developer is not looking for a variance, rather support for the project. The neighborhood is opposed since some may not want traffic to go through. Mr. Salazar asked if they have a legal claim. Mr. Wilson said that there is no legal claim. Mr. Baird asked on the reasons for the street not to go through. Mr. Wilson assumed that the neighbors wanted to maintain the dead-end environment.

Ms. Risinger asked about the width of the street, which is a standard ROW, and about where the trees are located.

Ms. Rock asked for clarification on what ATD's opposition to the cul-de-sac is. Mr. Wilson mentioned that ATD and AFD both requested the street to connect.

Mr. Moe asked for whether the neighborhood requested pedestrian connectivity. Mr. Wilson replied that the neighborhood did not begin a conversation on pedestrian connections.

Ms. Jewiss asked for information on the neighbors. Mr. Wilson mentioned that one of the western neighbors was told that the area was going to be green space in perpetuity.

Mr. Kinney asked about the access easement. It is constructed as an alley, and Mr. Kinney mentioned that alleys not constructed to public street standards do not get utilized as alleys since the City will not collect waste from them. Mr. Kinney advocated for the alley to be constructed as a public street and to align with the adjacent private driveway south of Cima Serena.

Chair Walker mentioned that there is the opportunity to write a resolution in support.

Mr. Wallace asked whether there was concern from the neighbors about the construction of duplexes/ smaller houses. Mr. Wilson mentioned that the neighbors did have concern and asked to develop at the existing 3u/acre density. Mr. Wilson mentioned that all developments south of Cima Serena and along Mopac have similar densities, and this is a corridor apt for more growth. Mr.

Wallace mentioned that if the PAC makes a recommendation it be only along the lines of connectivity, and not regarding the entire proposal since the group is not familiar with the neighborhood's viewpoint. Mr. Anderson clarified that the neighborhood was invited to present, but no one is present to share neighborhood concerns. Chair Walker mentioned compact and connected principles. Ms. Risinger mentioned that there are immense barriers to pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity in the immediate area, and Mopac already brings issues of safety for pedestrians/bicyclists traveling north/south.

Ms. Crowther asked about whether the duplexes will be constructed to the Visitability Ordinance. Mr. Wilson mentioned that they are looking at it, and likely will be since the homes will be built after January 1, 2015 when the Ordinance goes into effect.

Mr. Kinney asked whether every unit will have a driveway. Mr. Wilson mentioned that a driveway will have a curb cut for every two lots, and a rear load drive for each two units. Mr. Kinney asked for the letter to include the reduction of driveway curbs as a pedestrian benefit. Chair Walker will draft a letter in support with the included information.

7. OLD BUSINESS (6:35 to 7:50)

B. Complete Streets Policy– Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Gordon Derr, Austin Transportation Department

The Complete Streets Policy will be before Austin City Council June 12th. Mr. Derr mentioned that this agenda item is not set up for briefing presently, but, could be pulled for more discussion at the Tuesday Work Session. Ms. de la Morena asked for clarification on the categories for exceptions. Mr. Derr mentioned that ATD wants to revise the present 20% overall funding cap, which allows projects to move forward without ped/bike infrastructure if it accounts for more than 20% of overall costs. The 20% level is arbitrary, and the goal is to accomplish Complete Streets, not to give exceptions. Another reason is if the facility is contrary to public safety, such as if the facility would be along a 60mph roadway. Ms. de la Morena asked why exceptions must be listed specifically when the overall document is very proactive. Ms. de la Morena mentioned that the language is subjective. Chair Walker asked for the language to not “grant” a variance if the cost is excessively disproportionate. Mr. Derr mentioned that this will be for public projects, thus the criteria will be maintained. Ms. De La Morena referenced the Ross Subdivision Case which was not built to public standards, wondering how this can fall under complete streets.

Mr. Kinney recommended that the language in Section C “Exceptions” read [addition underlined]: “...An Exception for a specific project may be requested and may or may not be granted when: to share that the intent is not to grant variances. Chair Walker agreed that this suggestion allows for discretion to grant or not grant the exception rather than a by-right variance.

Mr. Craig mentioned that this language could say “and potentially are considered” to keep language brief. Chair Walker mentioned that this language can be added to the Resolution in support of the Complete Streets policy.

Mr. Derr mentioned that if Staff is not given the authority to grant exceptions all cases must go to Council. Ms. Jewiss asked whether the public is not given the ability to weigh-in on decisions. Mr.

Derr mentioned that in his 14 years of working for the City the times in which there was public input it has been to not include sidewalks.

Mr. Derr is obliged to say that the Annual Report of the Reasons for Exceptions Given will provide accountability for exceptions. Ms. Risinger asked whether the quarterly exceptions reporting update will be public. Mr. Derr assumes that the quarterly update will be on the City's webpage. Ms. Risinger asked for language changes indicating that the quarterly update report language to be on the City of Austin website.

Mr. Salazar mentioned the need for public oversight and public involvement in the process, to improve issues, rather than correct problems (referencing Item 5). Mr. Kinney mentioned that his neighborhood has created a way to notify neighbors when exceptions are applied. Ms. Crowther mentioned that the State of Texas' HHS allows you to subscribe to certain issue areas, and hopes that the City has that technology. The group asked to add language for the City of Austin to notify interested citizens when exceptions are being granted for Capital Improvement Projects to have greater transparency.

Mr. Anderson asked whether the group supports the Resolution as is and to submit recommendations, or to support the resolution only if the recommendations are incorporated into the policy. Ms. Crowther made a motion to approve the document only with additional recommendations.

Ms. Risinger asked for language evaluating performance measurements. Mr. Derr guided the group to page 10's *Metrics for Evaluation* section. Chair Walker offered to add language for national best practices to guide performance measures and allow for revisions.

Mr. Wallace asked why there are no standards for accessibility. Mr. Derr identified that accessibility standards are a given, as the City will meet ADA, PROWAG and TDLR requirements in all projects. Ms. Crowther mentioned that the need to include this concept was discussed at the previous meeting. Mr. Salazar mentioned that if it is a given, it is okay to restate this inclusionary principle. Ms. Bogucki said that all users are described on the first page. Ms. Crowther asked for language to read "inclusive" accommodations rather than "special", and can add a statement for "all city, state and federal regulations that guide accessibility."

Ms. Risinger asked for all multimodal transportation users (pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists) to be included in the 4th paragraph under the Applicability and Jurisdiction section (page 4).

Ms. Crowther made a motion to submit the PAC endorsement of the Complete Streets Policy only with the inclusion and recommendations of the points addressed above. Mr. Moe seconded. Ms. Risinger made a motion to support the draft regardless of including PAC's recommendations. A motion was made to accept Ms. Risinger's friendly amendment.

A. Land Development Code Working Group – Discussion and Possible Action

Presentation by: Robert Anderson, Planning and Development Review

Mr. Anderson presented on the PAC Code Working Group efforts, along with the BAC. He will loop around with the BAC and be on the PAC's July agenda for a resolution in favor. Mr. Anderson

spoke on high-level recommendations in the Code, and addressed bicycle-related recommendations which the group had not heard previously. The next meeting is Wednesday June 11th, 505 Barton Springs Road, 5th floor at 6:00 p.m. The recommendations will be submitted using the Consultant Team's Community Viewpoints Input form online.

Mr. Kinney mentioned that with various groups issues are not resolved, Mr. Wallace provided the example of shade and how competing needs for right-of-way can result in not having street trees. Mr. Baird mentioned that there could be a recommendation that while the group supports many of these policies they also support great streets, natural infrastructure, etc. Ms. Rock mentioned that Priority Programs look at Green Infrastructure.

Please send Robert an email if anything needs to be added or changed.

C. Election of Vice-Chair

Emily Risinger was the only nomination for Vice-Chair, and was elected.

D. Subcommittees

Presently the Land Development Code (LDC) Working Group has had irregular attendance. Ms. Wilkinson, Ms. Jewiss, Mr. Baird, Ms. De la Morena, Mr. Moe, Ms. Scarborough and Ms. Risinger - in addition to those who have already been involved - volunteered for the Technical Subcommittee.

A second Project Subcommittee will work on safety and enforcement with APD. Project Subcommittee are Ms. Bogucki, Ms. Wilkinson, Ms. Leith, Mr. Moe, Ms. Beinke, and a Cap Metro representative.

Mr. Kinney asked for the opportunity for additional subcommittees addressing needs such as wanting to re-send the group's position on I-35, involvement in Urban Plazas, bridges across I-35, or intersections with pedestrian implications. Mr. Salazar mentioned that we also need to follow-up with groups which we have contacted. Mr. Anderson mentioned that emerging items can be added to the agenda, and the group can form Working Groups on topics.

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

A. APD Enforcement

B. Agency Representatives and Community Liaisons

Mr. Anderson mentioned that the bylaws state that we should have 6 agency representatives and 4 community liaisons. This will be addressed at a future meeting.

9. Announcements (7:55 – 8:00)

- Summer meeting locations:
 - 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
- June 10, MeetUp for Transportation Groups Black Star, 6:30
- June 11, 6:00 LDC Working Group (OTC, room 500)

- CodeNEXT – Thursday, June 12 (8-10am, registration 7:30, meeting rooms 3-5), Saturday, June 14 (9-noon, registration 8:30, meeting rooms 3-5, RSVP requested) – Palmer events center
- Mr. Salazar expressed interest in receiving communication via a medium other than Google or Yahoo, perhaps by someone sending him the emails. Ms. Larson mentioned that with BCC you cannot reply all. Ms. Bogucki mentioned that you cannot research the history of the group's efforts. Chair Walker can make an attempt to forward emails to Mr. Salazar. Mr. Anderson forwards information to all those who have attended meetings.
- Ms. Jewiss provided an update that in the opinion of landscape architects, the Opticos Consultant Team does not provide much support for green infrastructure. She asks that if you or others that you know are involved in this field to provide input in the LDC process.
- Mr. Wallace mentioned that there is a public meeting next Thursday at Lamar Middle School to discuss the planning of the Burnet Road Corridor. Mr. Reilly, PDRD, mentioned that this meeting is to make sure that individuals of many different neighborhoods are on the same page of what will happen with the Corridor Plan. Mr. Wallace mentioned that there has not been a broad announcement to the community and many more than those who live in the adjacent areas would be interested in the redevelopment of this corridor.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Pedestrian Advisory Council Attendance

	Name	June 2	July 7	Aug 4	Sept 8
F	Joe Almazan	○			
F	Peter Baird	●			
F	Nancy Crowther	●			
F	Valerie Fruge	●			
F	Ramah Leith	●			
F	Nic Moe	●			
F	Emily Risinger (Vice-Chair)	●			
F	Delfin Salazar	●			
F	Heyden Walker (Chair)	●			
A	Janet Beinke	●			
A	Ken Craig	●			
A	Dan Keshet	✓			
A	Girard Kinney	●			
A	Jessica Lemann	✓			
A	Nathan Lynch	✓			
A	Joel Meyer	✓			
A	Carmen de la Morena-Chu	●			
A	Marva Overton	✓			
A	Kathy Rock	●			
A	Mike Sledge	○			
A	Luke Urie	✓			
A	Virginia Wilkinson	●			
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence					