



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
October 6, 2014**

The Pedestrian Advisory convened in a regular meeting on October 6, 2014 at Austin Energy Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road (1st Floor Assembly Room).

Elected Members in Attendance

Joe Almazan
Peter Baird
Janet Beinke
Ken Craig
Nancy Crowther

Valerie Fruge
Girard Kinney
Nic Moe
Marva Overton
Emily Risinger

Mike Sledge
Luke Urie
Heyden Walker
Virginia Wilkinson

Guests in Attendance

Hatty Bogucki
Sam Day-Woodruff
Pamela Larson

Sara Levine
John Menkowsky
Daniela Radpay

Andy Webre
John Woodley

Staff in Attendance:

Robert Anderson
Caitlin D'Alton

Christian Malanka
Stephen Ratke

Francis Reilly

CALL TO ORDER

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

2. 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.

John Menkowski,

Mr. Menkowski said he just became aware of the group and represents ARCIL. He said ARCIL assists people with disabilities to accomplish their own goals, dealing with issues such as housing and transportation, independent living classes, transition classes, and a new program for transportation vouchers.

Mr. Menkowski said he will keep apprised of our group and may submit application or membership in the future.

Mike Sledge brought up an issue of Busking on sidewalks. He said this issue is being addressed by his neighborhood association. The definition is limited to not allowed to obstruct the sidewalk. He wonders whether the PAC needs it to be more specific for in order for enforcement to be able to happen.

Heyden asked if City Resolution passed. Mike said resolution passed to look into creating ordinance.

Joe Almazan said it is similar to sidewalk cafés for ADA clearance.

Mike said timeline is for recommendation to Council in October so a tight timeline.

Girard Kinney said this is something we might want to weigh in on. He said we would need to find timeline. This is something he would trust the leadership to look into. He said it sounds like some of the issues are things that the PAC is concerned about.

LT. Malanka said they do enforce busking. He also said there is a noise ordinance so musicians can't play after 10:30 pm. He said sidewalk obstruction is something they do enforce, but they try to help people find wider sidewalk spaces. He also said he attends the Music Commission. When a street is closed, the entire street becomes the sidewalk, so the issue is ensuring ramp access.

Busking and soliciting are different. Signage is key difference. A sign indicating money is sought is soliciting and is not allowed. Buskers often simply set a hat or jar to receive money without a sign, which is legal.

Heyden has asked if everyone is comfortable that APD is addressing the issue. There was agreement to come back to the topic later in meeting.

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

Joe motioned and nancy seconded.

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

A. Bicycle Advisory Council / Urban Transportation Commission

No staff were present and no updates were received.

B. Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking

No update available.

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

A. Elections

Heyden said the Elections Subcommittee met (Daniela, Heyden, Virginia, and staff) to discuss applications. She mentioned there are some copies of the culled applications on the tables.

She said it was a tough decision on which applicants to recommend for full membership because there were lots of good applications. Heyden said if individuals are not elected, to please continue to be involved.

Heyden said a primary consideration of the Elections Subcommittee was that the full members have only had a few months to serve. Therefore, the recommendation was to allow the members to continue to serve. Because only 4 of the 5 members with open seats sought re-election, the recommendation was to fill Delfin's vacant position with Girard Kinney.

Heyden emphasized that there are attendance requirements for full and alternate members (75%) for meetings. Also, she indicated there are discussions to require full members to participate at the subcommittee level because so much of the work is being done at the subcommittee level.

Heyden let the applicants speak briefly to their interest in full membership.

Joe Almazan: Retired city of Austin employee. He has expertise in site planning and transportation planning. When retired, he was supervising the transportation group, has experience in driveways, ADA accessibility, commercial design standards, building layout, has good working relationship with many city stakeholders, including TXDOT and Travis County, and external community stakeholders such as architects, neighborhood advocates, elected officials. He is familiar with the Code and says he brings a lot of beneficial expertise.

Mary Faith – not present

Nancy Crowther: Has been member of the PAC since its inception, spent 25 years at Capital Metro, responsible for implementing and developing ADA Transportation concepts with community consumers, the primary beneficiaries of which are disabled individuals who HAVE to use public transit to commute. She worked with Capital Metro to get that accomplished. She said she also serves on ADA Access and Sidewalk Task Force, as well as the Mayor's Committee, is a 34 year member of ADAPT of Texas, and very involved in a lot of city efforts on walkability, visitability, and affordability. She said she knows the main core of the city and has had some close calls with automobiles, particularly with right-turn-on-red with drivers using telecommunications devices.

Valerie Fruge: Native Austonian, lived on East Coast for 25 years and commuted as pedestrian. She established 2-train Commuters Company for commuting when commuting between NE cities. Did some things with SEPTA and Capital Metro. She said she lives in East Austin and worked as partner with Walkability study 78721 and 78723. She said it is exciting to call herself a pedestrian and tries to get others interested. She said as was seen in the Carver meeting, there is a lot of interest but it is not always easy for everyone to get to meetings, so wants to be the voice.

Girard Kinney: Native Austinite, has architectural firm. Girard said he co-founder of Cherrywood Neighborhood Association and chairs land use and transportation subcommittee, designed Pfluger Pedestrian Bridge, and co-established the Great Streets Program. He said he supports Proposition 1, is an avid walker, and wants to help on any policy before Planning Commission and Urban Transportation commission that would impinge on walking.

Zakc Lockrem: Not present

Emily Risinger: Serving as Vice-Chair of the PAC. She said she is a Planner and consultant with Design Workshop focused on multi-modal transportation; that is one of the reasons she got involved in PAC. She said she grew up in areas that weren't walkable and then came to UT for college so while more walkable not great still. She has been working with PAC to make it better.

Samuel Day-Woodruff: Native Austinite and grew up in multiple parts of the city. He came to be here through working with Austin Atlas and then became connected with some individuals working on Vision Zero. He wants to be member because he wants everyone to have access. He says it is a right to be able to get to places.

Staff clarified that since we elected everyone at the same time in May, the current elections are to establish a staggered election cycle. Five seats are up for election this year and four will be up for election next year.

There are no term limits but has been practice with the Bicycle Advisory Council to step down after a term or two.

Officers are term-limited.

Girard expresses hesitation about time of subcommittees conflicting with neighborhood association meetings. He also asked for minutes to point out who are standing members. Staff pointed to the last page of the minutes that contains the attendance records.

The Project Subcommittee meets the second week of the month. The Technical Subcommittee meets the third week of the month. Peter says that they are sending out emails to those individuals that expressed interest in the subcommittees. He understands that there are issues with conflicting meeting times so he is interested in helping to coordinate meeting times to resolve conflicts.

Nic has sent doodle polls to those who have expressed an interest in attending the Project Subcommittee and so the full PAC membership wouldn't receive those doodle.

Girard asked for clarification on excused absences. Staff clarified that excused absences are granted for medical reasons, for other meetings relating to pedestrians such as neighborhood association meetings if pedestrian issues are on the agenda, and for certain subcommittee meetings that were scheduled with very short notice. Then, there is a requirement to notify both Heyden, as Chair, and staff of the absence in advance of the meeting.

Concern was expressed about having scheduled vacations or simply being out of town count against attendance requirements. Staff said that was part of the rationale for setting the attendance requirement at 75% - that there *will* be occasions when individuals are unable to make meetings.

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

A. Subcommittee Reports

a. Project Subcommittee – Nic Moe

Working to create recommendation to Council to create a Vision Zero Task Force. The Subcommittee members have presented to several groups and received endorsements. There are several upcoming presentations remaining. Nic says the group is continuing to seek support and will make a final presentation on recommendations before PAC on November 3rd.

Heyden clarifies that the support being received is to get Task Force to study issue more. Nic confirmed

Second issue is Agency Representation

One name to begin next month – Austin Transportation depart, Laura new Ped Bike staff
Still working to get reps from other four agencies. Joe and Ramah still working.

b. Technical Subcommittee – Peter Baird

Peter said the group is working on construction barriers. Currently, the group is collecting photos documenting lack of signage, sidewalks removed and replaced with inferior surface, etc. These are issues that are common. As a first step, looking to collect data and do research, with the aim to learn more on existing policies and practices. He said on the surface there appears to be little governing guidance. But, ATD's Right of Way (ROW) Management Division does have clear guidance. The Transportation Department staff will present to Technical Subcommittee and another goal is to develop a collaboration to help limited staff achieve goals for pedestrian access. Message is there is a lot we can do as a group to support this; issues are resolved using 311. We need to log as many events so ROW management can see extent of the problem and then address it.

Ask to download app and spread word. Nic to present on how to support.

i. 311 Reporting for Construction Barriers – Nic Moe

Nic says the benefit of the 311 app is individuals can submit issues quickly by 'Submit New Request' then 'Other' category. Staff clarified that categories are tied to department efforts, so sidewalk repair goes to the Public Works Department but there is no category that would direct specific issues according to access obstructions that would direct a submitted 311 complaint to the Transportation Department, so use the 'other' category.

Once an individual clicks 'Other', some requests allow you to submit photo. Can zoom in to the location. Include a description. It is unclear what the difference is between 'issue' and 'detail' are. In detail there are pre-select options.

Individuals can track their 311 requests using the app.

Nancy asks what "share with public" is. Hattie clarifies that you can make it searchable to the public. Hattie says to be more detailed, expansive in 'issue' section.

Virginia asks if when following up on a submitted request, the 'closed' status means it has been distributed versus actually solved. Marva confirms that suspicion.

Nic says in 'My Requests' the status is included and what steps have been taken.

Nancy asks if it tracks how long an issues takes to be resolved. Nic could not confirm. Staff says it is context dependent. Marva confirms that you can get staff contact for follow-up. Nic says there is an option to select service request follow up.

Girard says he gets a lot of issues from his neighborhood so he calls them in to 311. In some cases City Departments have encouraged using 311 and the more calls will trigger faster response. Some staff have requested a more targeted approach.

Nic confirms there is some department variation. We have heard from ATD that 311 is the way to report problems. Staff clarified that for sidewalk program, one – and only one is required - 311 request triggers increased scoring for absent sidewalk prioritization. But, we were specifically requested to submit multiple 311 submissions for right of way obstructions.

Peter said when completing a 311 request, "Concern in the Right of Way" is the phrase to use to ensure the complaint is directed to the Right of Way Management Division.

Peter said after submitting 311 request, please submit photos of good bad photos to Peter or Robert. Goal would be to document. pbaird@broaddusplanning.com is Peter's contact information.

John asked if APP takes advantage of GPS. Nic confirms yes, that it gathers your location. If you enter later, you can zoom in to the location where the issue is located.

Question about whether we've worked with Key to the Street.

Girard said there is an issue with Capital Metro chain link fence. He has reported this and always writes down the ticket number. But, when calling back the confirmation number seems to not be able to be retrieved, then transferred to another staff. Girard wonders whether the app will be useful with these sorts of issues.

Nic says you can still get confirmation number.

Caitlin says with Girard's issue, it may be best to contact Capital Metro directly.

Joe said at last ADA Sidewalk Task Force meeting the Public Works Department is updating the Sidewalk Master Plan. There is an opportunity to work with them.

Mike asked if there is a master list of potential recommendations rather than trying to identify potential improvements from scratch. Joe said he has information. Girard had question about how much staff is referring to neighborhood plans.

Peter said the Technical Subcommittee is going to be involved, that the Sidewalk Master Plan is within the Technical Subcommittees Work Plan for the year. Peter said he is not sure about an October 30 deadline for recommendations. Please contact Peter if you wish to be involved in that item.

Heyden thanked the subcommittee

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

Virginia followed up on elections subcommittee recommendation for full members to participate in subcommittees. She asked about whether there is interest in amending bylaws.

Nancy makes motion for November item to consider a subcommittee requirement and term limits for members as well as other remaining bylaw items. Emily seconded.

No objection.

Heyden asks if there were other items. Referring back to busking, Mike says no need to address more.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPDATES (7:55 to 8:00)

- Lightsey II Subdivision
Item heard at Planning Commission - sent back to Environmental Board for consideration of heritage trees.

- Complete Streets Workshop (September 15 – 16)
Approximately 17 PAC members in attendance. Good progress made in staff workshops with national facilitators to develop implementation plan.
- [Bicycle Advisory Council](#) meets October 21, 6pm. Location to be determined.
- Vision Zero Presentation calendar
Already Presented to:
 - ADA Access and Sidewalk Task Force – September 24 (supports)
 - Bike Austin Board of Directors – September 24 (supports)
 - Crossroads Coalition – October 2 (supports)

Upcoming:

 - Mayor’s Committee on Disability – October 13
 - Urban Transportation Commission – October 14
 - Bicycle Advisory Council – October 21
 - Public Safety Commission (tentative) – November 3
- [Urban Transportation Commission](#) meets on October 14. Location to be determined.
- **Distracted Driving Ordinance**
Council passed the distracted driving ordinance on August 28. Here is the [final ordinance](#). The ordinance requires hands-free operation of electronic devices and applies to motor vehicles and bicyclists, but not to pedestrians. The ordinance does not apply to motor vehicles stopped at stop lights which are at a complete stop.
- **Urban Trails Master Plan**
CityCouncil adopted the Urban Trails Master Plan (here is the [adopted draft](#)) at the September 25 Council session.
- **Strong Towns Workshop**
The Workshop will be November 20th, 8:30 am to noon at St. David’s Episcopal Church. The Workshop will be about how we finance and build transportation infrastructure, what the issues are, and what needs to change.
<http://www.strongtowns.org/events/2014/11/20/austin-tx-transpo-wksp>

Heyden says Strong towns is a small group out of Minnesota to look at Sustainable cities, so lots of focus on walkable and bikeable.

Girard asks why no motion was made on Lightsey II project. Heyden clarifies there were many issues still remaining with staff and so didn’t want to take a stance. Also, neighborhood advocates were directly contradicting PSW presentation. Girard wonders if it comes back to PAC.

Girard has experience that earlier notification is preferable. Asked staff if it is intention to bring cases before the PAC. Staff clarified that he has received permission to review Zoning cases but not site plans or subdivision cases yet.

Mike indicates a large number of Neighborhood Associations meet on the first Monday of the month, so there are issues in getting aware of. Janet asked if meetings were set around ANC. Girard mentioned that the Neighborhood Registry (Carol Gibbs).

Staff clarified that the primary schedule of Pac was done to avoid other board and commission calendar dates. So, we need to consider everything, not just neighborhood associations.

ADJOURNMENT

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					

Technical Subcommittee Attendance

	Name	June 11*	July	Aug 27	October 1
F	Peter Baird (Chair)	●	no mtng	●	●
F	Nic Moe	●	no mtng	✓	●
F	Emily Risinger	○	no mtng	●	●
A	Carmen de la Morena-Chu	✓	no mtng	✓	✓
A	Kathy Rock	●	no mtng	●	✓
A	Luke Urie	●	no mtng	✓	✓
A	Virginia Wilkinson	○	no mtng	✓	●
C	Gwen Jewiss	✓	no mtng	✓	✓
C	Alix Scarborough	●	no mtng	✓	✓
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member, C = Community Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence					

* Members of first Technical Subcommittee meeting will be allowed an excused absence.

Project Subcommittee Attendance

	Name	July 1*	July 23	Aug 26	Sept 12
F	Ramah Leith	●	●	●	
F	Nic Moe (Chair)	●	●	●	
A	Janet Beinke	○	✓	✓	
A	Virginia Wilkinson	○	✓	●	
C	Hatty Bogucki	●	●	✓	
C	Capital Metro (Lawrence Deeter or Caitlin White)	●	●	●	
C	Christian Malanka	●	✓	●	
F = Full Member, A = Alternate Member, C = Community Member ● Present ○ Excused Absence ✓ Unexcused Absence					

* Members of first Project Subcommittee meeting will be allowed an excused absence due to short notice.