

**City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee
Monthly Meeting, October 14, 2014**

MINUTES

1. The meeting convened at 7:30pm with the following committee members in attendance: Sheryl Gross-Glaser; Kacy Kostiuk; Liz Cattaneo; Joe Edgell; and Kati Nolfi.
2. There were no members of the public in attendance and no public comments.
3. Joe asked if there were additions or changes to the proposed agenda. Sheryl asked to discuss changing the committee's meeting time each month. Liz proposed including a space in agendas in the future for discussion related to priorities and projects, and also suggested reducing the amount of time in this meeting's agenda that would be spent discussing the Carroll Ave crosswalk. Joe suggested amending the agenda to allot 10 minutes for Carroll Ave and 10 minutes for priorities discussion, as well as adding a discussion of meeting times. Liz moved to approve the amended agenda; Sheryl seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the agenda.
4. Liz asked for feedback on the meeting minutes from the previous month. Sheryl moved to approve the minutes; Liz seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the meeting minutes. Liz will turn the meeting minutes into a PDF document and email it to Jessie Carpenter.
5. Sheryl suggested changing the meeting times because the ACT for Transit meetings are the same night, and she would like to attend them. The group meets in Silver Spring on the second Tuesday of the month. Joe looked at the city calendar and did not see conflicts on the third Tuesday of the month. Joe will email the committee to ask if this will be a feasible change for everyone.
6. Joe reported on the City Council meeting from the night before. He said that the discussion was good in some ways and discouraging in others. The city staff seems to be taking the SRC's snow-clearing report very seriously. However, it is still very car-focused. Joe said that Tim Male said we cannot give the same attention to pedestrians and bikes as we do for cars. Fred Schultz suggested that the SRC help the city staff with the priorities but also suggested lowering the fine for not clearing one's sidewalk. The only council member who was squarely in support of the SRC's recommendations was Seth Grimes. Joe recommended that committee members watch the meeting video.
 - a. Suzanne Ludlow, the deputy city manager, who led the presentation, suggested changes to the wording in the regulations for sidewalk clearing.
 - b. Joe noted that there are technological options that could allow for city clearing of sidewalks.
 - c. The council suggested that the SRC should work on identifying priority routes, mostly for pedestrian and bikes. Joe suggested that the city set up a registry for people who cannot drive so they can ask for a priority route to the Metro or where they need to go – i.e. people can nominate themselves for a priority route.
 - d. Joe suggested following up on this in the annual report and upcoming meeting with the city council. It seems like the committee is beginning to change the conversation related to snow clearing but still has more work to do.
 - e. Liz noted that there is a lot of information shared with community members about leaf collection dates and that there could be similar reminders regarding responsibilities for snow clearing of sidewalks.
 - f. Liz suggested making sure that the committee works with city staff but doesn't get too far ahead of them for future recommendations. Joe said that it might be possible to circulate some reports with city staff prior to the city council, but only in certain circumstances where appropriate.

- g. Sheryl asked if anyone with disabilities has successfully sued a municipality. She will look into this and see what she can find. Kati asked if the ADA mentions anything about snow clearing in its literature; Sheryl will take a look.
- 7. Joe reminded the committee that the presentation on its annual report to the city council has been moved to January. It will be either Monday, Jan. 5, or Monday, Jan. 12. For the sake of allowing extra time for committee members who might be traveling for the holidays, Joe will ask for Jan. 12.
- 8. Annual report:
 - a. There was a brief discussion and review of the existing draft of the committee's annual report.
 - b. There was a discussion of the intersection improvements section in the SRC priorities section. Kacy read the text she had added, and there were additions to the third bullet to make it clearer.
 - c. Liz suggested moving the phrasing related to data and community needs from the intersection improvements section into the general section before the priorities list.
 - d. Liz discussed the pedestrian and sidewalk policy improvements section; Joe suggested rephrasing to sound emphasize factual information rather than present the anticipated perspective of the committee on various issues.
 - e. Joe recommended adding an abstract section prior to the introduction and including specific information that we want to prioritize.
 - f. The report subcommittee will work on an updated draft and send to committee members for reviewing.
- 9. Fall bike ride with the city council:
 - a. Joe asked if anyone had input on suggested routes.
 - b. Liz suggested the intersection of Philadelphia and Carroll, down Ethan Allen to New Hampshire Ave and Erskine Ave. Kati will look into whether a reception could be held in the lobby of her condo building near there; the recreation center might also be a good final destination.
 - c. Kati noted that riding on Flower Ave from Silver Spring toward the Washington Adventist University can be dangerous; there is a very small shoulder and aggressive traffic, especially turning onto Carroll.
 - d. Liz suggested that perhaps in the future, it would be useful for committee members to take informal polls of cyclists related to routes and problem areas – perhaps at the Metro station on weekdays and on Sligo Creek on Sundays when the road is closed (to reach more recreational cyclists).
- 10. Takoma Junction:
 - a. Joe reported on the discussion related to this. There might be some opportunities for the committee to make improvements to the intersection there. Joe asked if the committee wants to make intersection-specific recommendations to the council.
 - b. Eric Saul, a local architect, has proposed a change to the intersection. It can be found at www.junctionrevival.com. It would create a pedestrian plaza, remove some of the light-timing issues, and create better crossing options, Joe said.
 - c. Liz noted that there has been some community concern about increases in traffic based on the proposals for the development of the city lot at Takoma Junction; perhaps this would be a chance for the committee to address this issue. Sheryl added that it would be ideal to make any possible new housing in the area both pedestrian- and bike-friendly.
 - d. The committee showed an interest in getting involved in the discussion related to this. Liz clarified that this would be a separate discussion from other priorities. Joe suggested inviting Eric Saul to attend the next SRC meeting to discuss his proposals.
 - e. Kati noted that there is a problem with the existing intersection at Takoma Junction. There is no crossing signal for pedestrians using the crosswalk across Sycamore Ave.

11. Carroll crosswalk:
 - a. Joe suggested videotaping people crossing the street there. Joe suggested thinking about whether this might be something the committee would like to work on.
12. There was a discussion of topics for the next meeting. These included:
 - a. Carroll crosswalk
 - b. Takoma Junction (Eric Saul)
 - c. Annual report
 - d. ADA and snow – Sheryl will report on this
13. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.