

**City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee
Monthly Meeting, February 18, 2014**

MINUTES

1. The meeting convened at 7:35pm with the following committee members in attendance: Kacy Kostiuk; Joe Edgell; Wren Rogers; and Nicholas Finio. We did not have a quorum. Ryan Morden arrived at 7:38pm for a quorum. Liz Cattaneo arrived at 7:45pm.
2. Nick is a new member of the committee introduced himself to the members.
 - a. Nick is a new committee member from Ward 3. He lives on Gude Ave.
 - b. He is in his last semester in a master's degree in community planning at UMD. He wanted to join the committee as an opportunity to use his planning skills and help in the community.
 - c. His biggest concerns are pedestrian safety on New Hampshire Ave. He pointed out a pedestrian fatality that occurred a few years ago on New Hampshire.
 - d. Kacy, Wren, Ryan, and Joe introduced themselves to Nick. Liz introduced herself when she arrived.
3. Ryan moved to approve the meeting minutes from December and January. Nick seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted to approve the minutes.
4. Kacy moved to approve the meeting agenda; Nick seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
5. Residential Streetscape Task Force report:
 - a. Joe said that he had emailed all members a copy of the latest version of the report. He asked committee members to review the document and send comments.
 - b. Joe noted that Mike attended the task force's meeting last month to share the committee's thoughts.
 - c. Wren noted that 4 out of 5 of the members of that committee have been or currently associated with Historic Takoma, and almost all live in Ward 1.
6. Discussion of Carroll Ave bridge closure recommendations:
 - a. Kacy and Wren have begun working on a paper to the city council with recommendations related to the upcoming Carroll Ave bridge closure.
 - b. The city council plans to discuss temporary traffic calming measures related to the bridge closure at the March 2 council meeting. Joe suggested that the committee should finish, vote on, and send the report by Feb. 23, one week before the council's meeting on this topic. Committee members agreed to work on it and vote via email so that a finalized version could be completed by then. A tentative timetable for completing it was set as:
 - i. Kacy and Wren will work on the report with changes as discussed at this meeting.
 - ii. Friday evening: Committee members should send new additions or changes to Kacy and Wren for inclusion on the next draft
 - iii. Sunday midday: Kacy and Wren will send a new version of the report for review by committee members
 - iv. Sunday evening: Committee members should review and submit edits or changes to the report by this date
 - v. Monday noon (earlier if possible): Kacy and Wren will send committee members a final draft of the report to vote on
 - vi. Monday afternoon: A final approved version will be sent to the city council
 - c. Ryan asked if the committee should present on the paper at the March 2 meeting. Joe said that this shouldn't be necessary but that members may want to make comments during the public comment portion of the meeting. Kacy and/or Wren plans to attend and do so.

- d. Committee members had a thorough discussion of the details and key elements of the draft report. Edits and notes were made directly in the document during the discussion. Discussions included:
 - Reformatting the paper to make it more succinct and direct, including bullet points for recommendations and justifications, rather than lumping them all into longer paragraphs or sections
 - Whether to request to make the temporary pedestrian bridge permanent. Advantages and disadvantages were discussed, including whether it would be high enough quality to last long-term. Members agreed not to pursue this request at the current time.
 - Whether to include a recommendation regarding a crosswalk at the Lincoln/Jefferson intersection, which has poor sight lines and no sidewalk on one side of the road. Members decided not to add this to the report at the current time because the other requests seemed more pressing.
 - Include a discussion of the SHA criteria that match the need for a four-way stop sign at Lincoln/Carroll.
 - Whether to bring up the issue of legality of people biking on sidewalks, if the recommended bike detour is on the pedestrian bridge. It was decided not to pursue this topic at this time.
 - Make a new graphic for the planned detour route, as the SHA version is very confusing. Wren agreed to make one.
7. Report on the America Walks National Walking Summit:
 - a. Liz reported on the America Walks National Walking Summit in DC. Liz said that Sheryl attended the conference a few years ago and that it was very much about walkability infrastructure improvements and walking for health, particularly in low income and minority communities.
 - b. Liz and Sheryl looked at the application proposal information and found that it emphasized accomplishments that had proven outcomes. They felt it might not be appropriate to submit a proposal at this time.
 - c. However, it does seem worthwhile to request that the city fund a mixture of committee members and staff to attend. The conference is October 28-30, 2015. Wren may be interested. Kacy asked if the committee could make recommendations that a councilmember attend. Liz and Sheryl will determine if they can go and will draft a copy of a request the funds.
8. Report on snow clearing from the last two storms:
 - a. Joe asked for feedback on what others had seen.
 - b. Nick noted that there is a lot of salt dumped on the road.
 - c. Ryan said that his neighborhood did a good job of clearing this time. There were two instances where people posted on the listserv asking for help and got it.
 - d. Joe noticed that the city has done a remarkably better job clearing city property the last two times.
 - e. Joe encouraged people to look at areas in Ward 6 and on New Hampshire.
 - f. Joe said that if the police department has an electric vehicle, perhaps public works could have a small plow for sidewalks. Nick noted that the accumulation factor is small, so it would be hard to convince anyone to make the purchase. Joe suggested a shared device. Liz asked if Montgomery County might consider this. Joe noticed one in DC.
 - g. Wren said that Salon 2000 and the computer place on Carroll and perhaps Subway did not clear snow. Liz suggested that people being off work may have increased the number of people clearing their sidewalks.

- h. Ryan noted that Lifelong Takoma has a program for senior citizens to get help with snow clearing.
 - i. A few people did get ticketed for not shoveling, and this seemed to help with some of the chronic offenders.
 - j. After the last storm, Joe thanked the city for its response.
 - k. Joe asked committee members to let the city know if there were people they noticed not shoveling. They should take a picture of the sidewalk and house and e-mail the code enforcement asking for them to “please take appropriate action.” If the person has not cleared during past snowstorms, include this information.
 - l. Joe asked the fire department if there had been any reported slip-and-fall incidents during the last storm, and they said they did not have reports of any.
9. Next meeting date and agenda:
- a. Joe has started a section of the agenda to include the city council’s rolling agenda. It would be ideal to have someone attend each of the meetings. If anyone has a meeting to add to this, let Joe know to add it.
 - b. Agenda items for next month:
 - i. Nick wants clarification from the city for the property boundaries on McLaughlin property – it’s unclear if the city has purchased the cut-through the people use. Joe said this is private property. There was an easement with PG County. Joe said he thinks the city wants to keep this as a cut-through. Nick wondered if it could be improved as a more formal/better path. Nick will email the acting city manager and Daryl, public works director, to ask about this.
10. The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.