

Meeting Minutes of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee May 16, 2017

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Hydrangea Room

Attending Mark Sherman, Mike Moore, Kacy Kostiuk, Frank Demarais

1. Housekeeping (agenda and meeting-minutes approval)

Agenda approved, Minutes from April deferred as not yet distributed by Frank

2. Public comments – None

3. Committee term renewals, end of June

Frank and Mike's terms expire in June, and both indicated willingness to renew, and will contact the City clerk for the paperwork

4. New Ave Bikeway

Kacy reported that New Hampshire Ave Bikeway comments from the Committee were delivered to the project leads. The project expects to present the plan to the Council on May 17.

5. SHA sidewalks review

The opportunity to contribute to the City's prioritization of the \$200,000 dedicated to SHA roadway sidewalks remains available to the Committee and City residents. Discussion focused on ways to engage the community in the prioritization, through outreach to listserves and tenant associations. Frank offered to connect with City clerk on whether the City has any distribution channels such as those.

Mark raised a general question about how to raise neighborhood focused issues, rather than single policy/segment focused issues such as safe roadways/transportation separate from other issues. The recommendation was for the Committee to consider options for restructuring City advisory committees around geographic rather than policy focus, where the issues important to a neighborhood would be championed by that neighborhood, rather than diffused across neighborhoods and wards.

6. Working with the City Council

Kacy reported on a conversation with Mayor Stewart concerning how to improve the communication between the Committee and the City staff and Council. The objectives would include setting priorities

on concert with the Council, setting timelines for recommendations to coincide with Council budget considerations in the fall. A suggestion for the Committee to consider is to schedule a working session with members of the Council prior to the start of FY2018, such as in July – September period. Kacy will contact the Council to discuss such a meeting.

Mark raised a related issue connected to the feedback collected at the Street Festival last year, which has remained on cards filled out and hasn't been organized and forwarded. Potential is to just copy the individual comments on the cards, organized by Ward and share that with Council. He observed that the work load to summarize and organize that occurred with prior year's comments did not seem to connect the issues with the Council members or lead to any specific actions. Discussion included the idea that at future events the Committee just hand out papers for interested parties to direct their comments to Council members by email, and copy the Committee, bypassing the Committee collection and organizing step.

Kacy recommended that Public Works director, Daryl Braithwaite be invited to the June meeting to improve communication and discuss opportunities to connect residents with the DPW.

Kacy also reported that the Mayor has established a priority of finding ways to connect with a broader distribution of City residents, especially lower income and immigrant communities. The City is looking for ideas and ways to make those connections.

7. Bikes on sidewalks

Kacy started the discussion with a report that the Council is not showing any interest in changing the ordinances, and a change would need stronger justifications. The discussion focused on the County law which allows bikes on sidewalks unless local law prohibits it. Takoma Park prohibits, however does not actively enforce the prohibition. The discussion focused on need relating to streets where biking on the street presents significant risks, especially state roads (Carroll Ave, Piney Branch, New Hampshire Ave).

Committee consensus was to suggest the City simply strike its current code which is at variance to the County code, rather than recommend any modifications or amendment of code.

8. Discussion of committee structure and roles

Kacy raised the issue of rotating responsibilities for taking of minutes, with consensus on the idea of a sign-up sheet for future meetings for volunteers. She also noted that the Trello system was available as a tool, with recommendation that postings be accompanied by an email to the committee to alert members to the posting.

Mark initiated the discussion of the potential for a co-chair structure. Conversation focused on Kacy's comfort with the level of responsibility and perceived need for assistance. The recommendation from the discussion was for members to volunteer to take leadership of issues for which they feel they have the greatest interest and can contribute. Future meetings will continue the discussion of having members take ownership of specific issues. The issue was recognized as needing greater membership participation to develop better structure.

9. Traffic calming recommendation, next steps

The Council had yet to hold its discussion with City staff recommendations, and was expected to be scheduled for May 24th.

10. Next month's meeting data & agenda suggestions

Next Meeting June 20th. Items from previous meetings to address : Outreach efforts and racial equity initiative; Next steps on priorities with Council; Newsletter articles; LED lights ; MoCo study of pedestrian areas in Takoma/Langley Crossroads

Upcoming Safe Roadways-Related Events

- Fri, May 19: Bike to Work Day
- May 19-Oct 19: Car-free Challenge
- Tues, June 13: ACT Meeting, "Public Input: Taking it to the streets"
- June 26-30: icanbike Camp
- Sun, Oct 1: Street Festiv