



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
October 22, 2013**

The Pedestrian Advisory convened in a regular meeting on October 22, 2013, 301 W 2nd Street, Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance:

Mark Gilbert (UTC)

Guests in Attendance:

Allan Dunlop
Jess Lowry
Lauren Bennett
Nelson Peet
Tom Bauer
Mike Rios
Daniel Butler
Thomas Zapata
John Dennis Harketts
Delfin Salazar
Christiano Prado
Reyes Rodriguez
James O'Donnell
Steve Hopkins
Jennifer McPhail
Marva Overton

Gonzalo Camacho
Gene Schneider
Peter Baird
David Parvo
Dan Keshet
Benoit Rochard
Alan De Anda
Joel Meyer
Robyn Webre
Brian Kremer
Alba Sereno
Nu Chanpheng
Ramah Leith
Daniela Radpay
Nikelle Meade
Valerie Fruge

Betty Dickson
Ed B. Wallace
Mary Messer
Nancy Crowther
Jill Ramirez
Cynthia Valadez
Heyden Walker
Jessica Lemann
Emily Risinger
Elizabeth Smith
Erin Grushon
Tom Wald
Martha King
Beverly Lester

Staff in Attendance:

Pamela Larson
John Eastman
Joe Almazan
Chelsea Donahue
Katie Mulholland

Kristy Hansen
Lawrence Deeter
Doug Ballew
Cari Buetow
John Nevares

Kathy Rock
Will Bozeman,
Jim Dale

Call to Order: Staff called the Board Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No citizen communication occurred.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no prior minutes to approve.

3. OLD BUSINESS

There were no previous items of business.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Introductions of Attendees

Everyone present gave a brief introduction of themselves and why they were interested in walking issues

B. History of PAC Creation

Staff gave an overview of the Pedestrian Advisory Council. The Walkability Summit in May indicated the need for an advocacy organization and a Pedestrian Advisory Coalition. WalkAustin was created to fulfill the advocacy role and that group worked with Council Member Riley’s office throughout the summer, presenting to the Urban Transportation Commission and the Bicycle Advisory Council to work out logistics of collaboration. WalkAustin announced the creation of the PAC in September.

C. What Role Does a PAC Play?

Staff discussed the role that a PAC can assume in Austin, and differentiated between an advisory council and an advocacy organization.

D. Next Steps

1. Identify First Staff Presentations

In order to identify possible staff presentations, priority issues were identified. The group identified the following issues:

North Lamar, north of 183, north of rundberg, East riverside	pedestrian in that parking lot	Quality of sidewalk, width, circuitous, etc.
Issue of enforcement	South congress, south Austin, places to walk to but not walkable, walking through parking lots,	Look at older, neglected neighborhoods first, sidewalk and walkability needs to be met, upgrading/bringing up to code,
Del Valle	Entire zip codes of 78744, 78745	Crosswalks, cars don’t recognize ped rights
Attention to downtown, b/c of transit system connectivity, prime destination	Burnet Road, north of Anderson	Lighting on sidewalks for commuting and travel
TXDOT, each district is required to advise ped/bike stakeholders on construction projects planned for each year, opportunity to get eyes on those projects, let’s have TXDOT present to the PAC each year.	Focus on construction areas	Getting back areas of public right of ways, what is the procedure to do that
	Land development code rewrite (2 people)	Sidewalk restaurants, don’t want to be too close, valet parking same
	Everything needs to look through ped lens (ordinances, design codes)	
South park meadows, can’t get there by car, hard to be a	IH 35 / 183	

<p>Airport blvd. MLK to Bolm, many businesses</p>	<p>Feel unsafe walking thru gas stations for example, with wide curb cuts</p>	<p>Talk with code enforcement</p>
<p>Shade trees will help with summer walking</p>	<p>Need to partner with outside entities: Austin Police Department, businesses, Cap Metro, Austin Energy,</p>	<p>Hear from sidewalk group, budgetary committee/capital improvement/public works/trees/</p>
<p>Coordination with utilities, popping up in sidewalks</p>	<p>Construction crossing/issues/need advance warning</p>	<p>Should we devote more time to sidewalk redevelopment program? Want to know what is possible, what can the PAC ask for, what are the ropes.</p>
<p>Increase crosswalk density, too many 3 sided crosswalks</p>	<p>Visioning: expectations may be different for various people, what do you define as walkable, let's get agreement on walkability, inspire others to understand why they are interested in walking, see to the future</p>	<p>Spend meeting #2 on sidewalk program, spend next few meetings on other components</p>
<p>Traffic speeds next to sidewalks</p>	<p>Work with schools on siting in walkable places; AISD 2 mile radius isn't realistic for walking 2nd graders</p>	<p>People want education</p>
<p>Older neighborhoods, Springdale and airport, no sidewalks over the bridge, City vs. TXDOT problem, passing the buck</p>	<p>Commercial development: bring in chambers of commerce and their subcommittees (health/transportation?)</p>	<p>Produce asset map, where is the money, what can it be used for?</p>
<p>Need ped signals in east Austin</p>		<p>Look at the cumulative picture, what have we done so far. A chronology of events/building/money spent and how we match up to peer cities</p>
<p>East side pies/carver crosswalk, no one is stopping</p>		
<p>Connect with BAC, cyclists on sidewalk on 6th</p>		

The group consensus was to hear from staff about the sidewalk program at the next meeting.

2. Bylaws

Jess Lowry, Emily Risinger, Delfin Salazar, and Alba Sereno volunteered to join a working group to help refine draft bylaws

3. Attendance at and Relationship to the Urban Transportation Commission and Bicycle Advisory Council

Staff related conversations and interest of the Urban Transportation Commission and the Bicycle Advisory Council to solidify working relationships between the three entities in order to work more effectively.

4. Schedule Meeting Times

The consensus of the group was to establish regular meeting times for 6pm on the first Monday of each month. Due to the proximity to November, the group will meet for the second time December 2nd.

7. ADJOURN

Staff adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. without objection.

DRAFT