



**PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MONDAY DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 – 6:00 PM  
CITY HALL – ROOM 1029  
301 W. SECOND STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

**Elected Members in Attendance**

Joe Almazan  
Heyden Walker  
Peter Baird  
Valerie Fruge  
Girard Kinnney

Tom Wald  
Robert Anderson  
Janet Beinke  
Carmen de la Morena-Chu  
Marva Overton

Kathy Rock  
Patrica Schaub  
Mike Sledge

**Guests in Attendance**

Daniela Radpay  
Nic Moe  
John Woodley  
Michael Fossom

Zoila Vega  
Louis Alcorn, Cap Metro  
Caitlin D'Alton, Cap Metro

Laura Dierenfield, ATD  
Alison Mills, ATD

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joe Almazan (chair) called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL (6:00 – 6:10)**

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.

Ms. Vega donates her time to Michael Folsom. Mr. Folsom is a resident of South Austin. He spoke about City's Coyote Management Plan. Mr. Folsom stated that the new plan will impair mobility through trail closures. He recommends that PAC contact City Council about AAC recommendations and requests a briefing.

**Feedback/Questions and Answers:**

- Mr. Anderson asks Mr. Folsom to elaborate on what might be the motivation behind policy change. Mr. Folsom explains that it may be an extension of the City's no kill shelters.
- Attendee asks if there have been any attacks in Austin and asserts that coyotes are known to be nocturnal in nature and tend to attack pets. Mr. Folsom agrees that coyotes tend to attack small animals but there are coyotes who advance closer to residential areas. He says there have been approximately 50 pets reported attacked or killed through 311. Few to no attacks on people since current system began.

- Mr. Almazan asserts that County and City of Austin are working together to try to keep the threatening coyotes away. Mr. Folsom confirms there is an outreach program and there is a wildlife specialist who monitors and takes action or educates folks.
- Tom Wald thanks Mr. Folsom for bringing up the issue and suggests that it be put on the agenda for January.

## **2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES (6:10 – 6:15)**

Ms. Walker makes a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Baird seconded the motion. Meeting notes unanimously approved with one abstention.

## **3. UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TITLE 25 OF THE CITY CODE RELATED TO STREET SIDE YARD PORCH ENCROACHMENT (6:15-6:30)**

Discussion and Possible Action. Greg Dutton, Planning and Zoning Department, Presenter.

Mr. Dutton explains he was at a PAC meeting a few months ago and includes a draft of the proposed amendment to Title 25 in a handout. He explains that the amendment will allow street side yard encroachment. Currently, you can have a front porch that encroaches into your setback but not a side porch. The draft will be at Planning Commission tomorrow and Mr. Dutton is not sure how it will be received.

Feedback/Questions and Answers:

- Mr. Kinney is asked if the amendment meets the intent of what he has proposed. He says it's what he envisioned and expresses the concerns of the commissioner using a drawing on the white board. He says the commissioners' concern is in the alignment of setbacks along the street. Mr. Dutton says he did address that and that her question has been answered.
- Historic landmark commission is mentioned. Mr. Dutton explains that he looked it and there's nothing in there that's applicable.
- Mr. Kinney thinks the fact that historic homes have porches all the way around is the relevant part of the Historic landmark commission and that it's an argument for this rather than against it. He says if they made a suggestion to limit the percentage that staff wants to keep it simple and let the builder do what he wants to do.
- Mr. Almazan says corner clearance was an issue if they obstruct visibility. Mr. Kinney says if a home owner runs into easement issues it won't trump this issue as this only impacts open porches. Mr. Anderson says we have a board of adjustments for this situation if a lot is not conforming to base code and that we should be writing a simple base code. Mr. Kinney says the point of this is to promote a robust connection between people along the street.
- Mr. Baird moves that the PAC reiterate its support of the amendment as stated in the October letter from the PAC to the Planning Commission. Mr. Anderson seconds. Motion carries unanimously.
- Mr. Almazan suggests a future agenda item – the sidewalk fee in lieu program. He says we are already on the update for that and asks if we can get a presentation on it early next year. Mr. Dutton says he can and it's being wrapped into CodeNext and he will keep the PAC updated.

## **General comment:**

- Mr. Kinney asks how one brings a matter to the PAC for discussion on the agenda. Mr. Almazan explains that request can be made during the Future Business segment of the meeting or sent to the Chair via email or made via the PAC Google Group for the Chair's consideration.

#### **4. CAPITAL METRO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION (6:30-7:00)**

James Hoskins, Program Manager, Safety, Capital Metro

Mr. Almazan reports that Mr. Hoskins was unable to attend due to a family emergency so Caitlin D'Alton updated the PAC. Caitlin explains that CapMetro is installing mobile eye equipment on transit buses and will share their findings next time. The technology detects potential pedestrian conflicts and motor vehicles. Mr. Hoskins will talk about that and how it's performing. No discussion follows.

#### **5. STAFF AND COMMISSION BRIEFINGS (7:00 – 7:20)**

- Bicycle Advisory Council Update (Tom Wald):
  - Mr. Wald explains there was a resolution on 183N to include a shared use path and provide a connection to Brushy Creek to the north and to Mopac to the south. The connection can be used to access Shoal Creek etc.
  - The Sidewalk Master Plan was covered but no action was taken
  - BAC nominated someone to the TxDOT I-35 Aesthetics Working Group (Ms. Andersen)
  - BAC formed a subcommittee to discuss the use of electric bikes from which four next actions were developed to better understand the use of e-bikes on trails in Austin, reaffirm trail etiquette, better understand which trails are core components of the transportation network. Mr. Wald welcomes PAC to get more involved says we should make sure PAC and BAC are working hand in hand.
- Active Transportation Program Update (Laura Dierenfield)
  - Ms. Dierenfield provides an overview of the 2015 accomplishments of the Active Transportation Program, including trail connections, safer crossings and shared use pathways as well as other programs and initiatives to promote walking. ATP also won a grant for 15 PHBs and 18 signal upgrades to Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS). ATD is assisting PWD in the process of updating the Sidewalk Master Plan and ADA Transition Plan including alternative and complementary strategies to accelerate walkability. In addition, ATD was instrumental in bringing the NACTO conference to Austin, featuring attendees from over 110 cities worldwide.
  - SmartTrips: ATD got a grant for pilot travel training program in North Central Austin. The North Central area was chosen because of severe health disparities. The pilot program looks at two key areas: (1) increasing physical activity and (2) increasing access to healthy food. ATD, Office of Sustainability, and CapMetro are all involved. PAC members and attendees are encouraged to get involved through the STARs volunteer program (Smart Trip Austin Representative). Materials were shared and feedback was encouraged.
  - Quarter Cent Funding Update: The Mobility Committee passed a resolution recommending that the \$21M in quarter cent funds be divided among each council district equally with the Mayor getting an additional sum for City-wide projects. This matter will now move on to full council meeting on 12/17. Council members are now looking at their priorities and comparing to staff recommendations.
- Urban Transportation Commission Update: (Laura Dierenfield)
  - The Urban Transportation Commission has requested a regular update by the Pedestrian Advisory Council each month. Discussion leads to a determination that the PAC will send a representative each month and this will usually be the Chair unless Mr. Almazan cannot make it.

## 6. 183N MOBILITY PROJECT (7:20-7:35)

### Discussion and Possible Action

- Ms. Walker explains that the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) is currently completing an environmental assessment of the 183N Mobility Project (Mopac to RM 620). She stresses there is a need to emphasize wider sidewalks and shared use path in the public comment process. Mr. Moe comments that from a pedestrian perspective there are also limited protected crossings and he thinks this is really important to address and that it should be brought to the attention of the CTRMA. Ms. Walker has drafted a letter which she shares with the group.
- Mr. Wald says that the limiting factor is that TxDOT has say on width of frontage roads. There would be enough room for shared use path if frontage road lanes were narrower. TxDOT doesn't want to change frontage road length because of safety and operational considerations such as turns in and out of driveways. Mr. Wald suggests that the PAC could address the letter to both CTRMA and TxDOT.
- Ms. De La Morena- Chu thinks it is important that the group send a letter.
- Mr. Anderson motions the letter be submitted with changes he listed. Ms. Fruge seconds. The motion carries unanimously. Ms. Walker asks for people with suggested edits to send them to her. The group agrees to allow Ms. Walker to incorporate changes and send on to CTRMA and TxDOT.

## 7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (7:35-7:55)

- **Projects Subcommittee Update:** Presentation by: Nic Moe, Projects Subcommittee Chair  
Nic provides an update on the Vision Zero Task Force. Tomorrow morning (December 8<sup>th</sup>) City staff will present briefing to the full Council during their work session. Staff is scheduled to present at the next PAC meeting.
- **Technical Subcommittee Update:** Peter Baird, Technical Subcommittee Chair  
Technical subcommittee meeting will be on Tuesday, December the 15<sup>th</sup>. In this meeting they will refine fun pictures that show their understanding of legal and illegal crosswalks.

## 8. FUTURE BUSINESS / ADJOURN (7:55 – 8:00)

- Mr. Wald requests a conversation about fencing along 35. Mr. Anderson suggests that a TxDOT representative be invited to participate.
- Attendee asks to have a discussion on signal operations during road closures (e.g. weekend nights on 6<sup>th</sup> street the traffic lights stay on and it sends mixed messages and creates miscommunication. Could it be temporarily turned to flashing red?) and at freeway crossings (e.g. at 38th and IH 35 or 38<sup>th</sup> and Guadalupe use "Immediate signal cycling" where the signal cycles back to pedestrian crossing in 10 seconds in order to increase pedestrian compliance
- Mr. Anderson asks what next year's agenda is and what the work plan is. He wonders if we could convene a subcommittee meeting to formulate a work plan. Ms. Fruge motions to have project subcommittee to put a work plan together – Mr. Anderson seconds.
- PAC needs a new chair for projects subcommittee. The following people express interest in participating in this subcommittee: Girard, Mr. Anderson, Nic, Carmen, Girard, Kathy, Patricia. The subcommittee will convene and select a new chair.
- Mr. Kinney suggests that the PAC review item 5 of the Public Safety Committee of Council regarding digital bill boards.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting is adjourned at 8:29 pm