

Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Minutes
Monday October 7, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.
Austin City Hall – Room 1101
301 W 2nd St. Austin, TX 78701

Full Members in Attendance:

Jay Crossley	Justin Henderson	Branigan Mulcahy
Adam Greenfield	Mark Wochner	Anna Bauereis
Heyden Walker	Patricia Schaub	Kimberly Levinson

Alternate Members in Attendance:

Jacqueline Ahmad	Tom Wald
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Alternate Members Absent:

Bradley Brey	Katherine Cox	Nicole McGrath	Dana Meyer
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City Staff in Attendance:

Emily Smith, Austin Transportation	Annick Beaudet, Austin Transportation
Sam Haynes, Austin Transportation	Kim McKnight, Parks and Recreation

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Chair Jay Crossley.

- 1. Approval of September 9, 2019 meeting minutes:** Postponed.
- 2. Annual Membership Elections:** Each PAC candidate present had one minute to give a statement. A secret ballot voting process was then facilitated by staff in accordance with the PAC's bylaws. The elections results are as follows:

Full members:

Adam Greenfield	Anna Bauereis	Caroline Bailey	Kimberly Levinson	Nicholas Armstrong
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Alternate members:

Aisling O'Reilly	Edwin Maldonado	Heyden Walker	Jay Crossley
Brooke Shannon	Gopal Krishnan	Jacqueline Ahmad	Mary Ward

Note: Justin Henderson, Mark Wochner, Patricia Schaub, and Branigan Mulcahy will continue their full membership terms through October 2020 and Katherine Cox and Nicole McGrath will continue their alternate membership term through October 2020.

- 3. Land Development Code Revision – staff update and PAC consideration of a recommendation:** Annick Beaudet, Assistant Director, Austin Transportation Department, gave a presentation and took questions from meeting attendees regarding the [Land Development Code revision](#). PAC consideration of a recommendation was postponed.
- 4. Recommendation regarding Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan:** PAC member Adam Greenfield presented draft recommendation language which, after debate and amendment, read as follows: *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the PAC recommends that the following proposals be integrated into the PARD 2019 Long Range Plan:*
 - *Options for increasing use of current parks be given equal weight alongside creating new parks*
 - *All parks and park entrances must be accessible through high-quality pedestrian infrastructure, including well-maintained, shaded, and lit sidewalks; frequently spaced crossing lights with reasonable, prioritized timing; and shortened crossing distance through street narrowing, road diets, and other traffic calming measures and speed management strategies to ensure a safe and comfortable park environment for all users*
 - *Parks, including cemeteries and golf courses, be used to augment and enhance connectivity of the existing pedestrian network*
 - *Pedestrian comfort be prioritized in parks through features such as pedestrian-oriented wayfinding signage; trails that are curved, shaded, and well-defined by trees; drinking fountains*
 - *Sittability, lingerability, and sociability be considered key qualities of any park through facilities such as the regular presence of covered picnic tables, benches with backs, and focal points such as gazebos and plazas*

- *Wherever possible, park facilities abut, or be located close to and within visual distance of, sidewalks/streets*
- *Increase the number of residents a short walk from parks, increase park safety through the “eyes on the street” effect, and maximize park access for low income households by encouraging existing, new, and affordable housing to be closely integrated into parks, including by allowing housing to directly border and building entrances open into parks*
- *The number of pocket parks that provide a range of things to do be greatly increased so that they are accessible by a five minute or less walk for all Austinites, and where appropriate space for new such parks be opened up through a range of creative approaches, including road diets, converting entire or parts of parking lots, rooftop installations, and supporting other City departments in converting streets into “Woonerven” (shared streets) that feature park elements*
- *PARD encourage and support communities in the creation of parklike amenities and shared spaces such as parklets and pocket patios on residential streets as an important element of the public realm*
- *Communities be invited to adopt and integrate local ideas, culture, and features into parks*
- *Regulations be relaxed to make it as easy as possible for communities to hold events and create programming in their local parks*
- *Parks be considered as sites for a wider range of community services than are often offered, such as tool lending libraries, bookable event rooms, gathering spaces/structures such as gazebos and outdoor movie screens, and storage spaces for commonly-needed community equipment such as folding chairs and tables and sporting equipment; making sure that such facilities be well integrated into parks*

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the PAC recommends that metrics and year by year implementation goals be created for the above aims, especially increasing the percentage of parks that are considered “connected” to their surroundings by high-quality pedestrian infrastructure

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the PAC recommends the Austin City Council consider how to forward the following recommendations in parallel with updating the PARD Long Range Plan:

- *Maximize on-street parking by minimizing parking inside parks and removing Residential Parking Permits near parks*
- *The City of Austin create an inventory of potential creative ways to open up spaces - including hotels, vacant land and buildings, under-utilized parking lots, and parks - as sites of short term emergency housing for people currently without access to housing*

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the PAC supports passage of the PARD Long Range Plan with the above conditions.

The recommendation was approved on a 9-0 vote.

5. Revising August 2019 PAC recommendation regarding Speed Management Program framework for clarity on shared and quiet streets: PAC member Tom Wald proposed that the PAC’s [August 2019 recommendation](#) regarding the [Speed Management Program](#) draft framework be amended to read “*the PAC recommends a speed limit of 25 mph for all City of Austin Level 1 & 2 streets (as defined in the ASMP), with the opportunity to post a speed limit of 20 mph for quiet streets and 5-10 mph for shared streets and other context sensitive solutions where appropriate*” instead of “*the PAC recommends a speed limit of 25 mph for all City of Austin Level 1 & 2 streets(as defined in the ASMP), with the opportunity to post a speed limit of 20 mph for shared streets and where appropriate*”. A motion to approve the amendment was approved on a 9-0 vote.

6. Updates + announcements: No discussion due to time constraints.

7. Future Agenda Items: No discussion due to time constraints.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by Chair Jay Crossley.