

Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Programs and Policies Subcommittee Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 28, 2021, 2021– 4:30 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Abigail Johnson, Neal Baxter, Julia Curran, Peter Vader, Paul St. Martin, Chris Ross, Matthew Steinrueck, Barbara Olson; Chris Kartheiser, Eric Bauer

Chair Peter Vader called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM and read the official notice regarding online meetings.

Quorum Discussion—Matthew Dyr Dahl

We intended to open the meeting with Matthew leading a discussion about quorum for business at our meetings, but Matthew was absent. We agreed to raise this issue at the next P & P meeting.

New Member Orientation—Chris Kartheiser

We talked about the format of July's meeting. We decided on short introductions from each PAC member first. Then Matthew will talk about Public Works, PAC's role, what the subcommittees handle, executive roles, and other basic PAC lore. Then we'll elect officers for the year. Chris Ross and Matthew Steinrueck asked that Matthew share links to and information on policies like Vision Zero, and how to find the PAC on the City's website.

Traffic Signs on Sidewalks—Peter Vader

Peter began the meeting with a complaint about signs directing traffic around construction sites that block pedestrian movement. As often as he and others move these signs from the sidewalk, the signs seem to reappear where they block pedestrians. What are the guidelines for placing these signs? Our discussion included the following:

Chris K.: I don't know the rules. Typically, citizens have to complain for the City to notice.

Paul: The same in St. Paul. These detour signs aren't a priority for the work crew, and our inspectors couldn't keep up with how the signs moved around. We considered imposing fines.

Chris K.: TAP 5:3 says we can do that.

Paul: We raised the fine so that it paid for the inspectors.

Curran: Is there any oversight of construction or detour sites? The subcontractors don't seem to heed the rules and calling 311 doesn't work for this type of complaint. The operators say to call the contractor.

Paul: Let's have Public Works come to a meeting and talk about this.

Chris K: I'll look into who's in charge of levying fines. Jennifer Lowry may be the right person to contact.

Election of Officers—Julia Curran

We discussed this for a short while. The Executive Committee has already considered this at length.

Update from George Floyd Square—Abigail Johnson & Neal Baxter

Neal: In the early morning of June 3, a crew from Public Works removed the barriers that they placed around 38th & Chicago last year. The neighbors were taken by surprise by this action. Some of the concrete barriers were moved to Chicago Avenue to separate the Floyd memorial from traffic, and at Columbus Avenue the workers left barriers on both sides of 38th Street that narrow the road to less than 2 lanes of traffic. The Fist was left in the intersection, with its surrounding garden. In the week following this activity, another fist was placed in each approach to Floyd Square on Chicago and 38th Street. Bollards also separate the two remaining lanes of traffic on Chicago Avenue.

We learned in a press conference held at the Square on June 3 that the City looks upon the current (barricade-free) layout as a three-month temporary arrangement.

Abigail: As executed, the removal of the barricades left visitors no space to look at the George Floyd Memorial. So, visitors stand in one of the traffic lanes, cars and trucks slowly (usually) driving among them. Also, garbage removal from the Square has been cut from 5 days per week to 2. Bus service has not resumed on either street.

This is a very dangerous and confused street now, and useless for traffic or visiting the Memorial.

Curran: Public Works is broken if they forced this change through in dead of night.

Barb: Very disrespectful! My solution is to close the intersection and open the rest of both streets.

Curran: We need to write a resolution, calling out the danger to pedestrians.

Abigail: I'll write one.

Miscellaneous Matters

Barb: Anything to note about the search for a new Public Works Director?

CK: Nothing yet.

Adjourned at 5:40 PM.