

**Minutes of the
Montpelier Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Meeting of January 26, 2016**

Members Present: Erica Garfin, Tom Aloisi, John Snell, Harris Webster and new member Guy Tapper

Others Present: Laura Biren

Public Comments

There were no comments from members of the general public in attendance.

Agenda

The members discussed and approved an agenda for the meeting; all agreed to postpone the discussion of goals since several members were absent. Erica Garfin led the meeting since Chair Eve Jacobs-Carnahan could not be at the meeting.

Minutes

The members approved the minutes of the meeting of December 22, 2015.

Changes to the committee

The committee welcomed Guy Tapper as a new member.

Technology Tools

John Snell and Laura Biren reported on the very positive results of their meeting with Seth (City's IT person) and Corey Line (DPW) about Request Tracker.

The program is part of the new City website and can provide a number of features that would enable citizens to report problems and issues to various city departments via the web. Reporting can be done from either a computer or an iPhone app. Requests are channeled automatically to up to five mailboxes in the City and can be further directed from those, including after hours. At that meeting Corey expressed concern that we adopt the system slowly enough to allow the City to develop the backend framework to deal with input without being overwhelmed.

Laura reported that she had spoken with public works officials in Muscatine, IA, a town of 20,000 that has used the system for several years. While they felt they did not use it as fully as they might, it was successful to date.

All agreed we would proceed to implement using Request Tracker on a test basis by having committee members only use it for a three-month period. John and Laura will work with Corey and Seth to have forms to report issues regarding the following: snow on walks, ice on walks, flooded or obstructed crosswalks, sidewalk trip hazards, problems with crosswalks, and obstructions to sidewalks. After three months of testing, we'll revisit to see what steps are next.

Street closure ideas

Harris shared the idea of “street scramble” ([WEBSITE HERE](#)) as a way to possibly have street closures. The concept involves teams, checkpoints and fun. We requested he take the idea to the Transportation Committee meeting as it could also involve bicycles.

Winter Safety – Pedestrian Visibility

Erica showed samples of reflective “slapwraps” and other reflective or LED materials she had found. All agreed some would be useful but suggested a project to use them would be next fall.

Proposed changes to zoning

John spoke about the new proposed zoning changes in the city and the fact that they seem to strongly support pedestrians. He volunteered to write a short, general note to the City Manager and Mayor expressing our appreciation for same and asking that these changes not be watered down. The committee approved same.

2016 Goals

Because several members were not in attendance, the discussion of goals was delayed. Erica requested that we meet for two hours on a Saturday morning with this being the only agenda item. Tom offered to send out an online poll to find a time that works in February or March.

Snow removal issues:

John shared having recently seen a woman fall and break her leg on an icy walk. Conditions had changed very quickly and it seemed to be simply an unfortunate accident. He also expressed appreciation for having seen DPW crews working downtown on two separate occasions clearing paths by hand between the street and the sidewalk near the parking meters. He felt, given the weather and small amount of snow, in this instance this was a good option to clearing all the snow away.

“Ambassadors”

John also asked the committee to consider how we might create an “ambassador” program for next Fall foliage season whereby senior volunteers and high school students (possibly paid) could help answer tourists’ questions and generally be “ambassadors” for the city. No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 23rd, 5:15-6:30 Police Department Community Room

DRAFT