

Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2009

Members in attendance:

Kobena Bonney, Thayer Donham (representing MIT), Robin Finnegan, Debby Galef, Alan Greene, Rona Gregory, Peter Koff, Eran Segev, Alex Linthicum, Larry Parnell, Helen Rose (scribe), Joseph Rose, Amanda Trombley (chair), Neil Van Dyke, Megan Weintraub,

City staff in attendance:

Rosalie Anders, Bill Dwyer, Daniel Hoagland (Citysmart intern)

No changes to March minutes.

Bill Dwyer, Superintendent of Streets and Sidewalks, gave a brief update on the sidewalk repairs that are scheduled for April and May. If members have trouble with any sidewalks, they can get in touch with DPW, including email to Dwyer directly: wdwyer@cambridgema.gov

Dwyer also announced that the DPW will test porous asphalt near the King Open School as a pilot, but they are unsure how the product will withstand the heavy traffic.

The City Engineer would like to attend a Pedestrian Committee meeting and present the updated five year-plan. Details to come.

Golden Shoes: Members Parnell, Segev, and chair Trombley gave updates on the donations solicited for the annual Golden Shoe hunt to date. Member Weintraub volunteered to set up a Facebook page for publicity. Member Galef volunteered to help with marketing. Member Linthicum will put any photographs of Golden Shoe findings onto the Pedestrian Committee Flickr page.

City Staff Anders said she would contact DPW and ask them not to clean away any Golden Shoes they find. Anders and City Staff Seiderman (not in attendance at this meeting) will alert City Hall and the City Manager about the Pedestrian Committee's efforts around Golden Shoes.

For 2010 Golden Shoes, we should consider getting a DPW sign to publicize the effort. Member Van Dyke has a contact at the Cambridge Chronicle who might be able to provide some press coverage.

City Smart: City Staff Anders wanted the Committee to cull down the possible events suggested at the March Committee meeting from 12 to a more manageable number, probably 4. The walks that made the short list include:

Police/Safety Walk (perhaps multiple times). Ways to keep safe at night, e.g. reflective clothing, what to look out for. Member H. Rose volunteered to contact Police Sergeant Murphy.

Tree Well Cleanup. Vice Chair B. Rasmussen could coordinate this.

Sound Walk. Member Linthicum has recording equipment and would act as point person.

Scavenger Hunt. Member Finnegan offered to lead this effort.

"Child-focused" walk. Member Parnell has many ideas.

Member Galef volunteered to contact the Historical Commission and member Greene also stepped up. Ideally the Historical Commission could at least publicize historical walks in Cambridgeport.

If events are well subscribed, the Committee members should plan to offer a second occurrence. Some walks (e.g. Sound Walk) would need to be limited for logistics purposes.

There will be a City Smart website set up as part of the CDD website, and any PDF documents we have (e.g. maps) could be placed there.

WalkBoston plans to sponsor a GoGreen month Walk to School event starting from Cambridgeport. Volunteers interested in leading a walk should contact WalkBoston directly.

Traffic Signal Discussion: City Councillor Larry Ward is interested in pedestrian issues, including intersections in Central Square. He would like to attend a future Pedestrian Committee meeting. City Staff would like to ensure that Traffic Engineer Jeff Parenti attends as he has intimate knowledge of intersections in the city and can offer authoritative details on signal issues such as concurrent vs. exclusive pedestrian signals.

Next meeting: Thursday May 28, 2009 6:00 p.m. City Hall Annex