

DRAFT Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2009

Members in attendance: Thayer Donham (MIT), Debby Galef, Alan Greene, Peter Koff, David Loutzenheiser, Larry Parnell, Sean Pierce, Helen Rose (scribe), Joseph Rose, Eran Segev, Amanda Trombley (chair), Neil Van Dyke, Megan Weintraub

City staff in attendance: Bill Dwyer (DPW), Cara Seiderman

Agenda:

Minutes & Agenda Review

Committee Officer elections

Updates, Projects, Announcements

- Stuff on the sidewalk

- Sidewalk cafes

- scooters/mopeds

- reports from the 'hood

Subcommittees meet & report back

Upcoming Meetings

No changes to June minutes

Larry has a strong commitment for Golden Shoes 2010 already!

Committee Officer elections: chair (currently held by Trombley), vice chair (vacant after the departure of member Rasmussen), scribe (currently held by H. Rose). Committee member Pierce nominated for vice chair, and he agreed to fill the position. All officer positions accepted by acclamation.

Stuff on the Sidewalk:

Sidewalk Cafes: Bill Dwyer (DPW) brought a handout and described the process.

Annual renewals, permits granted by license commission, DPW gets a say. Many city departments involved.

Must retain 4 foot minimum sidewalk width of clear, accessible access

City has only permitted outdoor dining with alcohol seating for three or four years.

Dwyer would like examples of locations that work well as well as those that don't.

Alcohol only allowed to be served outdoors from April 1 - November 30, and permit must be renewed annually.

The city has not been asked about outdoor cold weather seating (with heat lamps)

Proposal: different set of requirements (more space allowed) in designated business districts.

License commission needs to get their regulations set by Christmas

A-frame signs are less regulated

Pierce mentioned some areas (e.g. Portugal) allow seating in parking spaces (well partitioned, of course)

Sprinklers: talk to DPW about sprinklers that spray sidewalks

Motorized vehicles

If a motorcycle has a license plate it's never allowed to park on the sidewalk on public property. Call traffic & parking or police.

Scooters that get decals & not license plates: no way to track the owner. The smaller models need to be locked to something for security.

Scooters are easier to park in a large parallel area that has pay & display fees rather than meters.

Perhaps designated scooter parking areas April through December, then kept free for snow "storage"?

Boston specifically said they weren't going to enforce the new "no scooters on sidewalk" regulation at least for now.

The committee wants to make it clear that sidewalks are kept for pedestrians. Support city coming up with a solution to find a proactive solution to make sure scooters are provided for.

Letter sent to City Council from Pedestrian Committee (on file).

News from the 'Hood: New item on the agenda, do it every meeting.

Greene: East Cambridge Lechmere station redesign, convert current bus area to public market, modify station to have entrances on McGrath/O'Brien highway, add cover over station (current plan is open to elements).

Pierce has been corresponding with Jeff Parenti about Mass Ave & Rice Street. Push button pedestrian signal with no red/green signal.

Volpe/Marriott Broadway crossing. Crosswalk signal is mostly nonfunctional. Seiderman reminded the committee that Broadway will go from two lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction with roadway reconstruction next year.

Seiderman said that the city Community Planning Division will undertake a North Mass Ave study. Scope of project is not yet defined.

Subcommittee report out:

PVIS: Intersection of the month: Galileo/Vassar/Main. Mostly an enforcement issue about right turn on red. Member H. Rose to contact Sgt. Murphy.

Next month: Mass Ave & Wendell & Shepherd north of Harvard Square. Zero compliance on exclusive pedestrian crossing. Interested committee members should visit the intersection and we'll talk about it next month.

Two months from now: crossing on Main St from Broadway, near hissing globe

Streetscape: new project St James church redevelopment at Beech St & Mass Ave. Seiderman will be in touch with Ellen Coppinger (DPW) about landscaping options wide sidewalk at that location. Also discussed additional shared streets. City open to it, but they are expensive when reconstructing.

Community Outreach: Golden Shoes. Come up with list of billboard messages can go up on billboards around city. Inventory of a number of these messages that can be stockpiled and go up at the appropriate time. Calendar of events with a booth for interaction with public. Need to determine what materials would be required.

Cara brought up the topic of "TROMP" (Travel Responsibility Outreach and Mentoring Project). They want to speak to the Pedestrian Committee, perhaps next month.

Next meeting: Thursday October 22, 2009, City Hall Annex