

DRAFT Pedestrian Committee Meeting Minutes 2/23/12

Attendees: Rosalie Anders, Elizabeth Bierer, Rose Billeci, Robin Finnegan, Sara Freedman, Debby Galef, Sean Peirce, Helen Rose, Joseph Rose, Cara Seiderman, Andrea Yoder

Minutes:

6:00-6:45: Walk through of second floor exhibit space containing Art Bike Rack submissions. General committee discussion about bike racks with Cara recording suggestions and comments from the committee. Individuals may comment or vote on line or on paper forms at the exhibit.

6:45-6:55: Bill Dwyer from DPW presented current projects in work for the city.

6:55-7:00: Introductions by the committee members including new member, Rose Billeci

7:00-7:15 Go around regarding projects to be reviewed and how the committee would like to review them. Discussed the scope of the Harvard Overpass Redesign, status of Kendall Square and reminded committee of the Longfellow Bridge work. Also mentioned that there would be a discussion of the proposed 61 units at Concord Ave following the meeting at 8:05

7:15-7:35: Cara distributed the Accelerated Bridges plans for the Western Ave and River Street bridges. The committee reviewed the plans with comments:

In general, support for the improvements and overall plan (as previously reviewed) but with some specific additional detail improvements needing to be addressed:

- the lack of a pedestrian crosswalk at the Western Ave and Memorial Drive
- need to address where concurrent lights will be used
- the desire to have the entrance/exit of the Doubletree on Cambridge Street, Boston be only an entrance,
- the need to extend the median with the cross walk across Cambridge street at the intersection with Soldiers Field Road to allow a break point for pedestrians
- the need to address bike flow across Memorial Drive from River Street with the dedicated right turn lane. Would be good to add a marked bike lane where the stripes are on River Street.

7:35-7:45: Rosalie discussed the upcoming Walk Boston meeting which would be taking place on March 22 (the same day as the Pedestrian Committee meeting). The Walk Boston meeting would include a neighborhood East Cambridge / Kendall Square walk at 4pm followed by a lecture by the Surgeon General Regina Benjamin at Microsoft's N.E.R.D center on Memorial Drive at 5:30. The committee has been extended an invitation to these processions and opted to respond with a tentative yes barring any major projects needing to be reviewed.

7:45-8:00: The committee had a brief discussion about the 8-80 cities initiative and whether Cambridge would want to be a part of it. Elizabeth brought up the idea of revamping the pedestrian plan and the thought of creating a cohesive plan for the city as projects are developed to help show the city is committed to its goals. It was decided that the 8-80 cities initiative would be discussed at the April meeting.

<http://www.8-80cities.org/index.html>