

Cambridge Pedestrian Committee – August 27, 2020

Zoom

Attendees

Committee Members: Robin Bonner, Magda McCormick, Pamela McLemore, Angie Meltsner, Sean Peirce, Helen Rose, Erica Seidel, Wade Smith, Theresa Tobin, Jenny Turner-Trauring, Debby Galef, Ian Henneberger, Morgan Pinney, Milan Vit, Elka Kuhlman

Staff: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Andy Reker (CDD), Jerry Friedman (DPW), Brian McLane (DPW)

Updates / Review

1. Cara Seiderman (CDD) spoke re [Harvard Sq. Project](#)
Objective: To make it safer for both pedestrians and cyclists to go through the Square.
By: Reducing travel lanes, expanding the Plaza out, better Crosswalk markings, shortening Signal cycles.
Note: The full improvement for cyclists – such as the new signal -- won't come until end of construction, as the area will be under construction.
Comments: Questions re recent fatality and where the city/state stands with safety ordinance requiring large trucks to be fitted with side shields. Still not fully in place, it is a Vision Zero priority; the City has limits on which trucks can be required to be outfitted. The State and Federal levels would need to be involved for all trucks to be required to have the safety features..

~It was Briefly mentioned that the [Inner Mt Auburn Project](#) was starting soon, so nothing to report as yet.

2. Jerry Friedman (DPW) spoke re [River Street Reconstruction Project](#)
River Street Corridor
Described in Detail the Progress since last Update
Comments: Theresa mentioned that volunteers at the Women's Center on Pleasant St needed street parking, as well as being pleased with the safe walking improvements by closing off the small section of Kinnaird street

Carl Barron Plaza

Jerry presented 4 options and requested feedback on any particulars within an option. The Goal is not to choose a single option, but to create the "perfect" mix and match combination. In all options Bus Stops will have weather protection shelters.
Comments: Can be put on a future agenda for additional feedback after committee members have a chance to study the on-line drawings and/or visiting the site. Jerry offered that someone from DPW could possibly meet committee members at the site to walk them thru the area.

3. Jerry Friedman (DPW) spoke briefly re [Port Infrastructure Improvement Project](#)
Phase 1 was wrapping up.
Phase 2 would be starting soon and DPW are looking for a Working Group of local Port Residents.
Comments: None

Other: Major Roadway Projects are underway since July 2020 and there are live links on DPW site if anyone is interested in a particular project.

Public Comments: None

Committee Work

Sean Peirce asked how to make sub-committees work during the pandemic.

Cara said it was up to the sub-committees to get their groups going, if personal time and interest was available. Understanding the stresses of Covid life she only asks us to stay in touch.

Milan asked for and **Greg** agreed to resend the contact list / Google sheet so committee members can see what they signed up for and add to or change preferences if desired.

Elka Kuhlman suggested taking photos of interesting sights as we walk the streets of Cambridge to share with the group or to be posted on the city site. Comments were made that during the pandemic the space was being used for Covid information. Greg suggested that perhaps a sub-committee “plan” could be drawn-up and presented along with a group of photos and sent to him.

Debby mentioned thinking about getting together for walks in and around (other towns) the city.

Jenny acknowledged that she was feeling very over-stretched with the extra work required due to the pandemic...schooling, etc...

Theresa mentioned using Zoom for virtual walks

Other Updates

Debby inquired about the Feb 27, 2020 meeting minutes. Questions and comments were requested. There were none. Theresa moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Debby 2nd the motion, there were no objections.

The July meeting minutes will be approved next month.

A Poll was taken re changing the meeting times – decision was to keep them at 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Other Announcements

Question was asked what we’d like to discuss in the future?

Agreed we would like a presenter at each meeting:

Suggestions included:

Hear from the New Electrician (learned that the position has not been filled)

Police Dept - perhaps traffic enforcement or send in other topics to Greg and Cara

Brian McLane (DPW) Asked if we'd Like to hear about Snow – Yes!

Cara got the Video working again and we all waved good-bye....

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela McLemore