

Draft Pedestrian Committee Minutes
February 28, 2019

Attendance:

Committee Members: Debby Galef, Magda McCormick, Johanna Pittman, Sean Pierce, Olivia Turner, Morgan Pinney

Staff: Cara Seiderman (CDD), Greg Hanafin (CDD), Dana Benjamin (TP&T)

I. *Agenda Review, Minutes*

January minutes approved.

II. *Project Updates*

River Street: The committee reviewed the [slide deck](#) for the River Street project's February meeting, and Olivia Turner, who is participating in the project advisory committee, overviewed meeting highlights. The meeting revolved around a discussion of streetscape elements participants like/identify as assets and elements they want to improve. Existing conditions were reviewed along with a presentation on the street's history. Many comments focused on the need for speed reduction, making River Street more neighborhood-friendly, and increasing sidewalk accessibility. A nonprofit consulting firm will be partnering with the City to gain comprehensive feedback from community members in advance of a design proposal.

Grand Junction: Committee interviews have started, with a convening anticipated for April. Design is moving forward. In response to the early February meeting with Alexandria Real Estate, the Bicycle Committee drafted a letter of support that also highlighted their bike-related suggestions related to the project. Debby Galef volunteered to draft a similar letter of support from the Pedestrian Committee perspective.

Vision Zero: Many new areas of Cambridge were approved for reduced speed limit (20mph). The City is in the process of organizing the replacement/addition of new speed limit signs. Also, truck side guards are gaining traction. Side guards have already been installed for City-owned trucks but the City is now considering requiring contracted truck-owners to have truck side guards as well.

III. *Definition of "Pedestrian" in Traffic Regulations*

The current definition of a pedestrian is "Any person afoot or riding on a conveyance moved by human power, except bicycles, inline skates, scooters and skateboards."

Dana Benjamin presented a new proposed definition of "Pedestrian" for traffic regulations, responding to an outdated definition that excludes persons traveling via power wheelchairs and other power disability/mobility-assisting devices. Reflection and adoption of a new definition is in process. Dana will take questions and concerns articulated by committee members back for further discussion. Issues: how to clarify the definition of a "device," what about people in wheelchairs and other power devices possibly using bike lanes, especially where sidewalks are inaccessible.

IV. *Pedestrian Committee Business*

Sean Pierce was elected Vice-Chair effective immediately.

The committee decided to participate at some level in the May walk of Mass Ave managed by Pardis Saffari and will meet with her in the next month or so to hash out details.

Funding to update the Pedestrian Plan is pending but hoped for sometime in the next year or so.