

Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition

Meeting Notes



Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Room A, Lawrence Public Library

707 Vermont St, Lawrence, KS 66044

- I. Welcome and introductions Attendees: Michael Almon, Tess Banion, Alan Black, Carol Bowen, Louie Galloway, Ellen Paulsen, Michael Showalter, Bonnie Uffman, Gary Webber.
- II. Old Business
 1. Monitor and participate in pedestrian issues addressed by city and county. (Gary W.)
 - a. Plan for the upcoming City Commission election. At candidate forum, sidewalks were discussed. Ananda clearly advocated for equitable funding, Herbert and Larsen wanted a city vote, Anderson was opposed to blanket funding, and felt that not all sidewalks are equal. League will have picnic on Sept. 24, candidates will attend. VEC is planning two forums, Sept 21 and 22, one for commission, one for school board, 4:00 p.m., city commission room.
 2. Organize a second Town Meeting. (Erin P.)
 - a. Logistics: Sept. 21, 7:00 pm, Liberty Hall. Mark Fenton called today, with a list of polling questions he plans to ask the audience. SRTS Champions will probably attend. Gary, Tess, Charlie, and Erin will meet next week to plan.
 3. Advocate for abandoning current sidewalk maintenance program. (Bonnie U.) Bonnie advocates pushing staff to come up with innovative proposals. Tess suggests we speak during public comment. Michael suggests we email and lobby them. Bonnie suggests that Transportation committee address this.
 4. Support implementation of Safe Routes to Schools. (Tess B.)
 - a. Safe Routes Champions training event: Tess reported she met with Denise Johnson, and contacted people on additional lists. Michael Schowalter reported 20 people digitally registered. Some school staff can come, others may get training outside of the training session. Additional training sessions are possible. Michael will forward agenda for training session.
 - b. Carol reported she suggests we table a letter to the school board, since the board has changed their goals, which now include greater interaction with the community. Ellen suggested we craft questions for school board candidates. Michael S. and Tess will craft questions.
 5. Develop a long-term plan for the structure and viability of PedCo. (Charlie B.) Tabled
- III. New Business
 1. Presentation by Thea Perry on sidewalk issues: Tabled
 2. Carol is concerned about the transportation commission, that they are no improvement over the old Traffic Safety Commission. They seem to be simply responding to staff engineers. Bonnie recounted efforts to support funding for traffic calming against the recommendation of staff. Carol reported that rounding of corners in intersections is making the intersections less functional for pedestrians. Michael A. suggested we encourage Charlie to have a stronger input in agenda formation. Carol plans to attend next TC meeting to encourage them to be more proactive in support of pedestrians.
- IV. Additional items from participants
 1. Gary and Michele Dillon will be attending the National Walkability Conference in September. Gary will miss the September meeting as a result of this trip. Erin will facilitate.
 2. Tess will organize a meeting for Town Hall II planning committee.
 3. Louie reported on lack of sidewalks on Lincoln between 3rd and 5th, and the danger to pedestrians, especially children.
 4. Web site is up for renewal, \$96, Gary will pass the hat.
 5. Mike A suggested we use examples from other cities for sidewalk funding.
- V. Announcements
- VI. **Next PedCo Meeting:** Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Meeting Room B, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St, Lawrence, KS 66044