

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee Thursday, September 24, 5:30pm, Seventh Son Brewery, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Christopher Vidoni, Mike Navarro, Mark Bair, Rory Krupp, Matthew Adair, Laura Bidwa, Isom Nivins, Omar Elhagmusa, Edward Johnson, Doreen Uhas Sauer

Andy called the Streets Committee to order at 5:38 pm on the back patio at the brewery. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and identify their favorite local festival. Andy distributed copies of notes by Chris Orban from a MORPC meeting held last week, and an article on sandstone curbs by Shiloh Todorov.

Un-designating N. Fourth and Summit Streets as US 23

Andy noted that Matthew and Chris Orban attended a meeting with MORPC on behalf of Weinland Park, and Matthew reported that Thea Walsh of MORPC thought that un-designating US23 could be a good rallying cry for our neighborhood. She offered to speak at an upcoming Weinland Park meeting.

Parking Study Update

Andy asked Mike to update us on a recent meeting with the Short North Parking Study Advisory Group, he noted that city coordinator Amanda Ford has her team compiling information based on different neighborhoods inputs, the next meeting's not set, but the city is moving forward on some aspects of the parking study. He distributed a fact sheet from that meeting.

Councilperson Hardin

Edward Johnson, Councilperson Hardin's aide, expressed the Councilperson's regret at being unable to attend our meeting as promised due to not feeling well today. Andy noted the mission of this committee is to implement the Complete Streets philosophy in general, and specifically to Summit and N. Fourth Streets. He asked Edward to discuss the Councilperson's position on Complete Streets. Edward noted that Councilperson Hardin embraces Complete Streets across the city, especially gaps in sidewalks. He expressed a willingness to speak with the Dept. of Development about Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund recommendations that IVS made which were rejected. Andy agreed to send that correspondence. Edward stated that the Councilperson has no opinion on un-designating US 23 but is willing to look at it within the next month. He's focused on sidewalks as a consistent issue across the city, also the speed of traffic, but doesn't want to speak to the issue of speed, but rather address the backlog of 4 years on sidewalks. Christopher asked about his position on sandstone curbs, Edward is aware that's the preferred curb in German Village, but his experience is the city wants the community's skin in the game, that is, contribute to the cost of sandstone, which is initially more expensive. Rory pointed out that sandstone is cheaper in the long run. Andy asked about replacement policies for sidewalks along E. Fourth Avenue b/w High and Summit which were demolished by Columbia Gas. Isom noted that he has a contact at Columbia Gas and will pass that concern along. Mike asked where the city's increasing revenues from taxes have gone, Edward replied they're replacing state money lost over the past several years. Christopher asked if set aside money still exists, Edward noted that it was used up during our rainy days. Laura noted that the Weinland Park Mobility Plan was started 8 years ago but has not been implemented, and with the studies getting old, and the city continuing to resist efforts to address Summit and Fourth, the neighborhood's overwhelmingly #1 mobility issue, she expressed her concern about the city's commitment to its promises contained in the plan. Andy noted that the city rejected IVS requests to calm Summit and N. Fourth Streets in our 2015 UIRF application. Doreen noted that traffic engineers work in their own fiefdom, and reduce

our neighborhoods to checklists. Edward noted that traffic control is not a unique concern of IV, and he frequently reviews police reports and advocates for traffic calming with the engineers, making some progress lately, for example, around Franklin Park and their requests for multiple 4 way stops. Doreen suggested that there has to be a better model than the broken process in place now for traffic calming, and Rory noted the dominance of the engineers was like the tail wagging the dog. Omar expressed his interest in hearing Councilperson Hardin's position on the dominance of the number crunchers. Andy noted that we haven't had a real traffic calming advocate on Council since Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessy, and asked if Councilperson Hardin was that person. Andy relayed Ben Goodman's question about using timing of lights on Summit and Fourth as a quick and inexpensive fix, Laura and Rory noted that the Weinland Park Mobility Plan included that recommendation and it was shot down by the engineers because it slowed traffic flow. Andy invited Councilperson Hardin (with the consent of the 3 IVS officers' present) to attend our IVS general meeting October 13 to address the issues raised at today's meeting.

Sandstone Curbs as Preferred Choice

Shiloh Todorov's article was discussed, Andy noted that most of our stone curbs on major thoroughfares have been/will be soon replaced with concrete, but interior streets still have their original paving materials. Doreen suggested University area is similarly situated. Motion to recommend that the IVS Society at a future general meeting endorse sandstone as preferred curb materials, seconded by Christopher, passed unanimously without further discussion.

Residential Parking Permit Moratorium

Andy relayed Ben's request to advocate removal of the moratorium on new permit parking zones. Mike noted that it will be part of the parking study group's discussions. Laura noted that at last night's Weinland Park meeting concern over delays in permit parking was raised as a concern. Doreen noted that the city is looking to the University Area Commission for guidance on additional RPP areas, and that no moratorium exists in the University District outside the Short North boundaries. Andy moved, Christopher seconded that the committee recommend to the Society that it request the moratorium be lifted. Motion passed 2-1 with multiple absentions. Doreen promised to pass along any guidelines UAC develops.

Lincoln and Pearl Parking Garage

Andy noted Ben's concern that the Society take a position, he noted the history of the parking lot there dates back to the Wood Companies' earliest developments and violated the principle that IV east of Pearl is residential. Discussion centered on the size of the garage, there was no consensus to recommend a position to the Society.

Meeting Schedule

Next meeting of the Streets Committee is Thursday, November 19, 5:30pm, 1101 N. Fourth (SW Corner of Fourth and Fourth). That likely will be the last meeting of the year, after which the committee will return to meeting the last Thursday of the month.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Andy Klein, (09/24/15)

Next Meeting: 5:30 pm, Thursday, November 19, 2015 at Seventh Son, 1101 N. Fourth St.