

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee Thurs, March 30, 2017, 5:30pm, Seventh Son, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Jim Templeton, Isom Nivins, Doreen Uhas Sauer, Chistopher Vidoni, Rex Hagerling, Pasquale Grado, Sherrill Massey, .

Andy called the Streets Committee to order at 5:33 pm in the back room at the brewery, asking everyone to introduce themselves, give their affiliation and the signs of spring they've noticed.

Converting Warren Street b/w Summit and Kerr to One Way Eastbound Jim reported that he's a resident on Warren Street, and recounted the peculiar vehicular traffic flow on Warren: two way b/w High and Pearl, one way eastbound between Pearl and Kerr, two way b/w Kerr and Summit, 2 way split with a street median between Summit and Hamlet, and one way eastbound between Hamlet and N. Fourth Street. Earlier this year, after Jim and his neighbors' cars suffered numerous lost side mirrors and cosmetic scrapes from passing cars squeezing through in two directions, he began working with City Councilperson Shannon Hardin's aide Zach Davidson to address his concerns. Many of the residents have no off street parking. Zach's research of police reports reveals that the number of accidents reported is less than the actual number of incidents, likely due to insurance deductibles making claims not worthwhile. Jim has reached out to his neighbors about a solution and they agree that a traffic study is warranted to determine if one way eastbound is feasible. Andy asked if one way westbound had been considered. Jim noted the most significant congestion is caused by cars turning west onto Warren from Summit. The city installed a bump out at the marked crosswalk at the NW corner of Summit and Warren last year, intended to provide pedestrians some protection from turning vehicles, although neighbors hoped it signaled an impending change to remove turns onto Warren through the crosswalk. Jim also cited apparent driver confusion in vehicles entering IV from Summit which continue the wrong way on Warren toward High Street. Christopher noted there was a previous Facebook discussion on the IV page concerning accidents at the intersection of Kerr and Warren. Andy noted a long history of concerns about that intersection dating to the early 1980's when a four way stop was first proposed and then (without official approval) installed for a few weeks. The committee agreed to recommend at the next IVS general meeting that the Society endorse the proposed traffic study to convert Warren to one way eastbound between Kerr and Summit, and send the endorsement to the city's Public Service Department, attention Reynaldo Stargell, with copies to Councilperson Shannon Hardin, attention Zach Davidson, IV Commission, attention Jamie Goodman, and Jim Templeton. Andy expressed his appreciation for Jim's initiative in this matter, and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Short North Parking Study Update Andy distributed announcements of the four upcoming public open houses to be held in the next month, and encouraged those in attendance to go to tonight's first open house at the Goodale Shelterhouse. IVS will devote a portion of its April general meeting to a discussion of the parking open houses.

I-670 Exit Ramp Update Andy reported that Wagenbrenner continues to work through its traffic engineers with ODOT and the city to formalize the scope of a further traffic study of the impacts on adjacent exit ramps from the proposed ramp closure from I-670 Westbound onto N. Fourth Street northbound, with further updates expected soon.

Sidewalk and Curb Survey Andy noted that it's been a year and we still have not completed the proposed survey. Christopher indicated his willingness to continue to spearhead the effort, Andy noted that MORPC

has a new GIS capability to identify neighborhoods block by block and that he should contact Shannon Fergus for more details.

UIRF Update Doreen and Pasquale reported that the University Planning Committee has met to prioritize their UIRF plan, and that \$500m previously allocated for a center median on High Street was available for other improvements. Plans now call for parking along both sides of High Street, making a center median unfeasible. One suggestion for a substitute improvement was sign toppers for identifying historic neighborhoods in the University District. Andy asked if there were streetscape updates for the Short North improvements scheduled from E. Seventh to E. Ninth Avenues. Doreen indicated that Matt Hanson of UDO/UCBA is coordinating with Betsy Pandora, and she would check. Doreen distributed a flyer from OSU's Chadwick Arboretum offering free trees through a "Branch Out Buckeyes" collaboration with the city. Residents are offered up to two sapling trees for their yard but they must be ordered by April 10th (contact Christina at cdvoise@gmail.com) with 400 available to the OSU community for pick up April 14 at Nationwide 4H Center on Fred Taylor Drive.

Undesignating US 23 Doreen expressed her continued interest in the concept of re-routing US 23 along I-71 to make Summit and N. Fourth Streets more neighborhood friendly. Andy noted that any effort to close the exit onto N. Fourth Street from I-670 West would be enhanced by not having N. Fourth Street designated as a state route.

Landscaping on Summit at I-670 Sherrill noted the loss of four ash trees along Summit south of Warren, and expressed the need to insulate the neighbors from both the noise and pollution of that busy intersection. Andy noted that the landscaping was part of remediation by ODOT for the damage to the historic district from expanding I-670 (Spring-Sandusky Interchange) 15 or so years ago, and that landscaping at I-670 and Eden Alley has also been compromised. He suggested we combine Summit and I-670 with our efforts to remediate the remediation at Eden & I-670. Sherrill also noted an opportunity for planting trees on N. Fourth Street if the exit from I-670 gets removed.

Columbia Gas Meter Replacement Program Rex noted activity replacing meters in Dennison Place, and asked for our experience with the program to move meters from inside to outside. Doreen said the University experience has been positive, with efforts to preserve the historic fabric and a minimal exposure of the new meters to the street, most being at the rear of properties adjoining the inside meter's former location. Andy noted IV's positive experience with Columbia Gas reconstructing E. Fourth Avenue's sidewalks between High and Summit last year to replace a main gas line, but no meters were replaced.

Street Names Project Doreen reported that WOSU's Neighborhoods series is doing a story on street names and asked if IV had any interesting stories. Andy reported that Ottar Alley is really Ottawa Alley but a courthouse fire destroyed the original plat maps and in re-copying them, Ottawa became Ottar. He also suggested that for the same reason Punta Alley may have originally been named Pinta, and that Booth Street was renamed Detroit Avenue around 1904 at a time, Doreen suggested, when the city was trying to eliminate duplicates in its street names, although there are not other Booth Streets in the current city.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:21 pm. Next meeting is April 27, 2017, in the backroom at the brewery at 1101 N. 4th Street.

Respectfully submitted,