

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee

Thurs, June 29, 2017, 5:30pm, Seventh Son, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Sherrill Massey, Isom Nivins, Rory Krupp, Evelyn Van Til

Andy called the Streets Committee to order at 5:38 pm in the back room at the brewery and asked everyone to introduce themselves, give their affiliation, say whether they've visited the new Northside Library, and tell us their favorite library.

Announcements – Andy reported that Godman Guild Settlement House will form 3 committees to help plan their proposed Weinland Park Community Center: Childcare, Green Space, and Partners. The new building addition would extend south toward Fifth Avenue and include a gymnasium. Contact the Guild: Tekelia.Blount@godmanguild.org.

Isom announced his retirement from the city after 39 years service on July 28 upcoming.

Short North Parking Study Update The city plans two public meetings about the revised pilot parking plan on successive Thursdays at Goodale Park Shelterhouse (July 6) and Junior Achievement Gym at 2nd Ave School (July 13) from 5:30 to 7:30 pm led by Desman, the newly hired paid parking consultants. Andy noted that last month, we learned parking czar Amanda Ford was consulting with her public service director after receiving negative feedback from the parking study group over changes proposed by the director to the original pilot. Rory and Evelyn described the parking study group's recent meetings as combative and contentious, following the incorporation into the group of members of Preserve Short North Neighborhoods (active on NextDoor and Facebook) whose competing vision would make all non-metered on-street parking exclusive to residents after 6pm. This suburban myopia (“That's MY parking space in front of my house!”) likely can't be reconciled with the urbanist posture of the long serving neighborhood representatives in the group, who understand that cars do not deserve primacy and streets are shared amenities. Additional points of conflict center on the PSNN suspicion that existing neighborhood organizations don't welcome their input, and that this is all merely a cash grab by the city. The most recent meeting of the group concluded with the city affirming shared use of the streets by residents, employees and visitors, reducing the annual permit fee from \$50 to \$25, and adding hang tags for use by permit holders and their visitors. Andy noted that the IVS survey conducted at the last open house identified cost of the permits and absence of hang tags as the two main concerns; this revision addresses those issues. Next month city council will likely pass legislation giving broad discretion to the public service director to implement the details of the pilot program starting in January 2018. Evelyn noted that councilperson Shannon Hardin has endorsed fee waivers for tags and permits with proof of hardship by low income residents. Another continuing concern is the reliance on smart phone apps (to be developed by the city using the Smart Cities grant) which, while avoiding the intrusion of kiosks or parking meters into the neighborhoods, will disadvantage those without access to smart phones. Other issues are how to implement the

plan with multi-unit residences and how to set hourly pricing at levels that will encourage use of parking garages over paid on-street parking.

Sidewalks and Curbs Survey Update Andy reported that the four current IVS officers have agreed to help with the survey. Evelyn obtained additional useful information from German Village Society on their successful survey and Rory reported interest from the University Area Commission and he will follow up to get commitments to move forward. We will fine tune the effort at the July Streets Committee meeting.

I-670 Exit at 4th Street Traffic Study Update – Andy reported that Mark Wagenbrenner hopes to schedule a meeting with the city and traffic engineers soon and invited our participation. Sherrill noted recent coverage of planned re-design of the N. Broadway/Olentangy River Road/SR 315 interchange, to correct the “pinball exit” onto eastbound N. Broadway. Sherrill believes our “pinball exit” onto N. Fourth is more dangerous and an argument for closing it.

US-23 Re-routing – Andy distributed a summary of minutes on the subject of US 23 over the past two years. He noted that US 23 cuts across many neighborhoods and government jurisdictions and changing the routing requires the coordinated efforts of the city of Columbus, MORPC, State of Ohio, and the non-governmental organization known as AASHTO. It could facilitate closure of I-670 exit ramp onto N. Fourth Street, and potentially reduce out of town traffic through neighborhoods. The downside to the re-routing is the loss of state funding for road improvements to Summit, N. Fourth and Indianola. Andy noted that the Summit and N. Fourth road diet/reconstruction is complete and Indianola's has just begun.

Warren Street Traffic Study – The city has yet to respond to our May letter requesting a traffic study.

Third Avenue & Summit Crosswalk – The city apparently completed its study, because crosswalk striping across Summit occurred this month. Andy noted most foot traffic crosses Summit on the south side of E. Third Avenue for those using the C-bus stop and The Market, and that the crosswalk was painted on the north side of the intersection.

Eden & Pearl Alley Update – Alley reconstruction appears complete, meters are installed and 3 dumpsters have been located at the eastern edge of the parking lot on the sidewalk and landscaped area where 3” caliper trees are to be planted (later in the fall?).

Meeting Adjourned at 6:38 pm. Next meeting is Thursday, July 27, 2017 in the backroom at the brewery at 1101 N. 4th Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Klein, Chair, Streets Committee (06/30/17)