

MEETING NOTES, NEWBURGH TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 9TH, 2019

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Hannah des Cognets, Kippy Boyle, Naomi Hersson-Ringskog, Gabe Berlin

ABSENT: John Harper

GUESTS/ADVISORS: AJ Sumahit, Michael Manion, Anthony Grice, Jessica Ridgeway, Chade Wade

NOTE TAKER: Hannah

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Phillipe Pierre, owner of Palate and Ms Fairfax on Liberty St.

Summary of Pierre's comments: At Palate, and neighboring businesses are short transactions. They rely on convenience - they compete with Walmart/Amazon by being local and convenient. Parking is hard to find, customers that can't find it go elsewhere. 15 minute parking is valuable to these kinds of businesses and some businesses like Brick St Deli already have 15 min parking.

Surveyed his customers who said it's not that convenient, hard to shop there.

Proposes one spot on each side of Liberty St closest to the Ann St intersection be designated 15 min parking.

Discussion:

Anthony: Pierre should check in with the barber shop about how they feel

Chad: Those spots could be used for any of those business's customers

Gabe: There are no time limits on Liberty St parking, how many spots are being taken up by employees and business owners? Parking will help but walkability will help too

Anthony: City Council is looking to increase traffic enforcement, that's in the works. Wants to see support of other business on the block

Gabe: We should aim to increase turnover on that block, but we should also educate the public around available parking in the area, specifically the Ann St lot

Philippe: Yes, education, more Ann st is great long-term goal. The businesses need a solution now, in the short-term

Naomi: Could Philippe bring us a petition or some evidence that other businesses on Liberty St support this change? Might 20 or 30 minutes work? We should look for precedents. Signage for Ann St lot does not make it clear that it is free municipal parking - this should be flagged for further discussion

NEXT STEPS: First, Philippe should bring the committee a petition or letters of support. Committee should put forth a policy to council to be voted on.

3: PRESENTATIONS FROM GUESTS: NONE

4. MAIN AGENDA

WALKABILITY/PEDESTRIAN

- DPW expects to do 5-10 crosswalks this year
- Committee to help decide priority crosswalks to paint
- Chad: every intersection in the city has been numbered, may or may not have noted what is painted or not. He can provide these number and a map can be created. If we paint more crosswalks, we're going to need the police to help by enforcing.
- Naomi: We want to help George and DPW decide which to prioritize
- Anthony: Businesses can paint their walks, so consider what intersections might be by businesses. Some schools also have paint and are ready to go. Ask George for the Pavement Management Plan to help decide.
- AJ: We could work on getting more painted with volunteers.
1st street and City Terrace is a dangerous intersection because of the traffic pattern and placement of the stop sign, plus there are kids waiting for buses too. We could paint walk and possibly move signs.
- Jessica: She has long, thin signs "NY State Law: Yield to Pedestrians" that can be used as a start, but they are temporary.
- NEXT STEPS: get the numbered intersections from Chad, create a long-list of possibilities (20-30), then try to get community input on their thoughts, committee to visit those intersections, create a short list to give to DPW.

PARKING:

Committee now has a report from a parking vendor that was prepared for the city as part of a proposal for their service but that includes good maps and data on parking in the city. Kippy will look into this.

Water-front parking is a priority. That data will start to help us address this.

BUS

Improving buses in Newburgh is one of the hardest things to do but one of the most important. Buses are run by county which is a challenge.

Newburgh needs efficient, reliable buses for residents to get to jobs.

AJ thinks that he can get people to take printable survey (better than online).

A survey might ask: How often do you ride? What are some problems you have?

Why don't you ride the bus? Finding out routes that work better for more people.

Some routes are dictated by the size of the bus and street.

AJ says that buses won't stop at some intersections, like 17k and 300. We don't know if that's a company policy or just the discretion of the driver.

Chad says that Transit Orange did a survey and they got rave reviews which doesn't seem to square with people's experience. We should invite Rob Parrington - Senior Planner - Transit for Orange County.

Can we get the policy of company for bus drivers? That would empower riders.

The bus company is under contract from the county then they need to know if they're not meeting their mandate.

Empowering riders - letting riders know what *should* be happening, what the riders and buses are supposed to do for them, how they can complain and making it easy to do so.

We should invite Rob to February meeting and learn what we can from him.

AJ mentioned that the Employment and Training Administration might have good insight on where new buses could be useful. They run a van service for people returning to work that aren't serviced by the bus system. This is funded by the county (through Orange Works) as well and so could be a cost-saver.

NEXT STEPS: Chad will reach out to Rob to invite him to a meeting on February 20th. If he agrees, we should gather topics and questions in advance to give to him.

Have specific examples in writing.

Develop a survey after meeting with Rob.

Jessica is going to bring in some examples of bus surveys and will bring relevant research/data to share.

STREET LIGHTING

Anthony: If you let Central Hudson know a light is out, they will replace it. No one is dedicated to doing that. Could the committee help with that?

BICYCLE

Bike lockers - Gabe will assemble and DPW will place one at waterfront and one at Rec Center.

ORANGE COUNTY CHISC ANNOUNCEMENTS - JESSICA

NY Bicycling Coalition is offering free Complete Streets training for municipalities. She will email details to the committee.

Committee should revisit Complete Streets legislation to be passed by City. Make this a committee priority.

OCTC UPDATES

OCTC is proposing a transit sub-committee

City Manager has asked Ali (Planning) to head this. City Manager would be voting member.

TIP Projects- Lake Drive, Lake Street and Walsh Ave are all close to going to bids. Liberty St Streetscape also close to bidding. Streetscaping projects in East End in early stages.

Traffic signal updates- proposing to replace signals at B'way and Grand and at B'way and Liberty signals with new pedestrian signal crosswalks.

Can committee have a list or map of new ADA compliant intersections? Grand St from Clinton to Water St as well as Montgomery from 1st to Water St is complete.

ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS

Updating group name: Kippy suggests that although in the charter "Parking and Traffic" but "Transportation" or "Parking and Transportation" would be more apt and better for grants.

Kippy's preference is "Parking and Transportation".

New Board Members:

Richie is parting with the board amicably. Malinda has not responded when Gabe has contacted her. Michael and AJ may be interested.

Facebook group:

It exists! Gabe and Naomi have been posting!

Goal of group is to get many different voices posting. The more people posting, the better it shows public buy-in.

Kippy wants to remind committee that we still must maintain our portion of the city website and we must post agendas there. Can we also link to Facebook group on city webpage? Chad says yes we can!

MASTERPLAN

Tabled until February meeting

GIS HELP FROM GRAD STUDENTS AT UPENN

Naomi is in contact about this, if we have specific projects we should pitch them.