

Macalester-Groveland Community Council
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, May 25th, 2009 – 7:00 PM
Edgumbe Rec Center, 320 S. Griggs St., St. Paul

Committee Members in Attendance

Steve Matysik, Dave Pasiuk (co-chair), Terry Casey (co-chair), Jay MacBride, Andrew Olson, Amber Dallman, Carrie Au-Yeung, Mike Kowski

Karmann Peters (staff),

Guests

Mary Quinn McCallum, Sarah Umhoefer, Sheila Sweeney, Paul St. Martin (City of St. Paul), Richard Dodson, Tom Welna (Macalester College)

Meeting called to order at approximately 7:04 p.m.

Approval of April 2009 Meeting Minutes

Dave; 2nd Steve; motion passes

Mike is out of town for this meeting

Paint the Pavement

June 13th! Also, we won a grant (\$250) for the Art of Traffic Calming project, so not only will we have brand new artwork on the street out in front of Edgumbe Rec, but we will also get traffic calming art signs along Jefferson Ave!

Steve: we have all the paint (more than the estimated amount we need); most cans mixed; we have extra sand and 21 cans of paint

Dave: list of stuff ready to go

Paint brushes will be washed in janitor's sink at Edgumbe

FRIDAY, JUNE 13 6PM: bring everything to Edgumbe the night before

Public works will come and do street cleaning 1 or 2 nights before the event.

24 hours ahead of time: Temporary no parking signs (899 N. Dale St.—front counter) that say: "No parking Sat. June 13th from 6am-8pm."

Possibility to do some more publicity through school district (316 Coburn)

Jay will be art director
Most complicated designs will get started first
Andrew/Carrie will take care of video/photos
Karmann/Amber will take care of publicity

Grand/Syndicate

54 foot wide street—what can we do to make it safer?

Review of options:

- 1) Bumpouts making the street 42ft wide, 6ft on each side of the extra curb
- 2) Marked crosswalk and signs, wouldn't lose any legal parking spaces
- 3) Bus stop further W on Syndicate—neighbor on the N side of Grand is in favor

Or no bumpout, median would be a ped refuge, couldn't do a left turn (one way on Lincoln)

Or bus stop moved, bumpouts, ped refuge (median)

Public Works recommends Option #1; in partnership with Kowalski's, new design/layout of lot could make a much safer situation for neighbors and community members

City Council previously approved \$50,000 for pedestrian safety issues; some of that money could pay for 2 bumpouts on Grand/Syndicate.

Priorities:

- 1) Metro bus stop must be closed and moved west to the other side of Syndicate
- 2) Most west driveway of Kowalski's needs to be rerouted for safer traffic flow

Jay will work with Paul St. Martin to be the voice of the community when speaking to the folks at Kowalski's.

RSVP Process (Finn/Lincoln Traffic Circle)

- 1) How do we go about this process in general?
- 2) How to deal with specifics of Finn/Lincoln

Process:

Typically, in the fall there is a public meeting relating to the upcoming RSVP (Residential Street Vitality Project) where the City (Public Works) has an opportunity to explain to the public what will be happening in regards to water, sewer, construction, forestry, traffic lights, etc. There is also an opportunity to address traffic calming (traffic circles, roundabouts, etc). Then the neighborhood can follow up with Public Works to set up these traffic calming measures.

In the future, RSVP projects, like traffic circles, will come back to MGCC transportation committee for approval—then recommended to the full board.

Dave moves that MGCC does not support traffic circles; Andrew does not agree with Dave—idea to have a certain # of neighbors, at least one of those will be invited to come to transportation committee meeting to get permission for traffic circles, roundabouts, etc.

Tom Welna shared that there is a traffic circle near his home at Charles/Wheeler that has been taken care of well by the neighbors.

Neighbors of Finn/Lincoln will be invited to come to the July transportation committee meeting; however, we won't be able to move forward with the full board until August or September.

Snelling median

3 neighbors came to transportation committee meeting to see what they could do to help the Snelling median project move forward. They live on Fairmount Ave and were going to be meeting with Councilmember Harris the first week in June to see what they can do to encourage him to move forward in his support of this project. Shelia, one of the Fairmount Ave neighbors has set up a meeting with Councilmember Harris for the evening of Tues. June 2nd at 6:30pm. These neighbors also shared with us some of the answers they've received when asking other neighbors why they were opposed and heard everything from "I don't want to lose the parking lane," to "I believe in fighting 'the man'."

Traffic on Goodrich increased 35% during the test but that was not even the minimum threshold set by Mn/DOT that would cause alarm in the increased traffic there. How many nay-sayers are left out there? Seems to be fewer and fewer of them.

State Funding: July 1st deadline (rather than the former date of June 30th)

Federal Funding: October 31st to encumber funds.

Safety issues are more important than whether or not Councilmember Harris agrees with the design of the median. Mayor's office has been supportive of getting Councilmember Harris to come to a decision; union folks want jobs and intend to put pressure on him as well.

Next steps: Letters to the editor, phone calls, etc are the most effective use of time at this point.

How is the City going to stay mute on this issue now all of the facts are out in the open?

Osceola—Gena willing to door knock; opposition runs on lack of facts.

All reasonable concerns by opposition have been addressed.

Possibility of another organized event on a different street (other than Fairmount)

Meeting Adjourned at approx. 8:50pm

Next Transportation Committee meeting: June 22nd, 7:00 PM, Edgumbe Rec Center