Active Living Advisory Committee (ALAC)
Thursday, May 14, 2020
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Videoconference via Zoom

**ALAC Member Attendees:** Mark Stursma, Tameshia Harris, Ben Turner, Jason Rose, Pell Duvall

**City Reps:** Carrie Murphy (Mayor’s office), Todd Pfitzer (Public Works), Jeff Rieselman (Public Works), Dennis Bryers (Parks), Derek Miller (Planning), Kevin Carder (Planning)

[All notes are paraphrased and not necessarily direct quotes of meeting attendees.]

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of February minutes (Voting Item)
   a. Jason motion; Tameshia second; unanimously approved

2. Update on Sidewalk Closure Policy
   a. Jeff R: Policy is posted on Public Works website and in effect
      i. We went through coordination with Planning dept. to wordsmith the last point in the policy
      ii. Worked with them to get sidewalk closure policy incorporated into building permit process
      iii. Posted it on PW website and emailed it out to list of contractors, barricade vendors, and consultants
      iv. Over the month after that, it was good to see that the community was aware of the policy
      v. Feel we will get more and more compliance over time
   b. Mark S: I was sent email from Mode Shift asking to thank the City for its efforts in responding to sidewalk closure/detour issues;
   c. Carrie: Mark, can you FW the email from Mode Shift to me? Mark: Yes
   d. Jeff R: I view the policy as being in its infancy and if people see that it could be improved, we will consider it.
   e. Pell: I was glad to see the policy was formulated and glad it’s simple to start out with and can be improved as needed over time
   f. Ben: Can you provide examples of where the policy has been implemented?
      i. Jeff R. - 17th & Farnam and the downtown ORBT stops

3. Lynch Park Rehabilitation Update
   a. Brook: We have between six and eight million dollar master plan for Lynch Park
   b. Brook: Skate park started as neighborhood kids building makeshift items on the tennis courts and grew from there
      i. We went down to remove it because several of the items were not up to code and posed safety and liability problems, so we removed it.
      ii. There was a large amount of controversy that erupted with the removal
      iii. Now have put up new, approved skate park items on the tennis courts
c. Pell: Could ALAC see and provide input on the plan?
d. Brook: I can forward the plan to Carrie to distribute to ALAC
e. Brook: This project is unique and has a lot of strong donor support and we finally have
green light to move forward now that environmental issues have been remediated
f. It will be similar to the Miller Park improvements that happened over the past couple
years

4. New ALAC Member Recommendations (Voting Item)
   a. Received applications/interest from four members of the public as well as a term
      renewal application from Pell.
   b. There are currently three empty slots on ALAC, though the size of the committee can
      (and has been) increased in the past.
   c. The Mayor appoints advisory committee members and takes into consideration the
      recommendations of existing committee members, if they choose to make them
   d. Applications have been forwarded to ALAC members to review
   e. ALAC New Committee Member Appointment Recommendations to forward to Mayor:
      i. Megan Walker – Pell motion to recommend; second by Ben; unanimously
         approved
      ii. Travis Hedlund – Jason motion to recommend; second by Pell; unanimously
         approved
      iii. Jacob Weiss – Ben motion to recommend; second by Pell; unanimously
         approved
      iv. Dan McCann – Pell motion to recommend; second by Tameshia; unanimously
         approved
      v. Pell Duvall (term renewal) – Ben motion to recommend; second by Tameshia;
         unanimously approved

5. General Discussion of State of Active Living Amid the Pandemic
   a. Mark – we did receive a request from mode shift with related suggested agenda items;
      the email was forwarded to ALAC
   b. Mark: I’ll kick it off by saying I’ve been surprised by how critical the role of parks and
      trails has been amid the pandemic for public health
   c. Dennis B.: There is definitely a strong health benefit of parks and there is a lot of data
      through organizations like ASLA on the benefits
   d. Kevin C.: Pulled together slides on ped/bike counts on the trails at our automated
      bicycle/pedestrian counters
      i. Overall counts are basically double the same period last year
   e. Pell: Interesting to see data backs up general observations that trail traffic is up
   f. Mark: One reason we wanted to add this on the agenda was a lot of members received
      questions after the City closed the parks with many urging that trails remain open. Very
      soon after, there was clarification from the City that trails would remain open.
   g. Carrie: Important to remember that for every person who called disapproving of parks
      being closed, another called approving; it was a difficult decision to make but done
      based on public health directives;
      i. Important that everyone understands that all the local actions that have been
         placed are under direction of the governor.
ii. By state law or city ordinance, it is either the health director or governor, Mayor’s authority is limited

iii. Decision to close parks was based on grave concerns from Police Dept. seeing large gatherings in parks

h. Carrie: City has significant deficit projected – everyone is hoping Congress provides federal aid to Cities and States, but if that doesn’t happen, difficult decisions will need to be made.

i. Carrie: One positive thing this week from budget balancing standpoint was passage of bond issue and levy increase, since gas tax revenue will be down.

i. Mark: I think this may be an ongoing agenda item, for example, are there things cities are doing to facilitate safe social distancing during active living activities?

j. Mark: Will be good to carry this over to future agendas to discuss how ALAC can contribute to ideas for sustaining increases in active living and possibly ideas for addressing funding shortfalls that are likely to occur

6. ALAC Agenda Items – Process

a. Mark: Sidewalk closure policy is example of where issue was brought to ALAC and had a positive result. Example of positive channel of communication from public to ALAC and City.

b. Mark: Sometimes, though, items are brought to an ALAC member on short notice sort of with the idea that ALAC is basically an appeal board for decisions the City made that they disagree with, which is really outside the scope of the board.

c. Mark: Perhaps we should have formal process for having items added to agenda

d. Jason: With the increased focus on transportation in the metro area, this will probably be an increasingly common issue

e. Dennis: The process for Parks and Rec Advisory Board is to have all agenda item requests be submitted 2 weeks before meeting

f. Mark: Is it possible for a public request/input form to be on ALAC webpage?

g. Mark: There is also an email address dedicated to ALAC which could be used

h. Will continue discussion on next agenda

7. Set June Agenda

a. “Open Streets” / “Stay Healthy Streets” / increasing access to streets for active transportation amid pandemic

b. How/whether street bond impacts pedestrian/bike infrastructure

c. Process for Adding Agenda Items

8. Adjourn

a. Pell motion; Ben second; unanimously approved; adjourned 4:39pm