Active Living Advisory Committee (ALAC)
Thursday, June 11, 2020
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Videoconference via Zoom

ALAC Member Attendees: Mark Stursma, Andy Wessel, Tameshia Harris, Ben Turner, Pell Duvall

City Reps: Todd Pfitzer (Public Works), Nick Gordon (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 May minutes (Voting Item)
   a. Pell motion to approve; Tameshia second, unanimously approved

2. Vision Zero Update
   a. Nick: Hold on posting Vision Zero Coordinator position was lifted and planning to post in July
   b. Nick: Douglas-Omaha GIS has helped put together fatal crash “data dashboard”
      i. We’re planning to add serious injury crashes as well
   c. Link:
      https://omaha.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/aaaa0a5e390646d183efe233b9758bd7
   d. Link is public and on Public Works Traffic Division webpage:
      https://publicworks.cityofomaha.org/33-residents/traffic
   e. Pell: I had entertained idea of setting up working group to carry on VZ work since the hiring of coordinator position was on hold, but with news that VZ coordinator position being posted, that may not be necessary at this point
   f. Andy: Two action items should be letting Task Force members know that VZ Coordinator position is being posted and that fatal crash dashboard has been set up and available
   g. Nick: We would appreciate VZ Task Force and ALAC members sharing posting with their networks

3. “Open Streets” / “Stay Healthy Streets” / increasing access to streets for active transportation amid pandemic
   a. Mark: As we only meet monthly, ALAC isn’t really set up well to quickly respond to current issues like this
   b. Mark: With the pandemic, many cities closed certain streets (such as through parks and low-traffic residential streets in dense urban neighborhoods) to allow for active living.
      i. This was not done in Omaha but would it have been beneficial?
      ii. We, as members, get questions/Facebook messages asking about it
c. Mark: Hopefully we are moving in the direction of putting the pandemic behind us, but is it worth discussing or considering this.

d. Pell: What does that look like in Omaha? Are there places where that would have a clear public health benefit?

e. Mark: I can see in a dense urban settings where you need space for social distancing for people to move around where this would meet a need. Was this discussed or identified as a need in neighborhoods in Omaha?
   i. Todd: We have received a small number of requests about closing streets for social distancing but we weren’t presented with a strong case for the need. Reasoning was always “other cities are doing this, why aren’t we?”

f. Dennis: With regard to ALAC not being set up to react to current issues like this, I would suggest ALAC be more proactive in its approach and think about issues/projects/studies that would drive forward active living over next 3-5 years, rather than being pulled into reacting to recent issues.
   i. Andy: We kind of started down that path looking at what are the active living goals in the Master Plan, and then figuring out how does ALAC support achieving those. We could start putting that back on the agenda.
   ii. Mark: With regard to being proactive, I know the Mayor asked us to offer a recommendation on the scooter pilot, but I don’t think we ever got around to it.
      1. Todd: Second scooter pilot is going to council (approval of vendors) shortly, but feedback from ALAC on how the first year went would still be welcomed
      2. Todd: Ken Smith (ParkOmaha manager) is administering the pilot.
      3. Derek: If scooters discussed at next/future meeting would be helpful to have Ken attend.

4. How/whether street bond impacts pedestrian/bike infrastructure
   a. Todd: The short answer is yes it does. Some projects involve reconstruction of roadway segments, providing possible opportunity for changes.
      i. Example is Grover Street from 50th to 60th, which will undergo full reconstruction
         1. Consultant hired to evaluate alternatives pointed out street is identified in MAPA Bike Ped Plan as proposed bike lanes. Consistent with our Complete Streets Policy, bike facilities will be considered in alternatives analysis
      ii. Ben: Will the I Street (108th to I-80) reconstruction include sidewalks?
         1. Todd: Yes
   b. Pell, with those types of reconstruction projects, will there be a full public engagement process
      i. Todd, since this bond is really focused on getting a lot of pressing rehab/reconstruction needs done really quickly, a full engagement process for each project won’t be feasible or make sense, but we are looking at options for some of those bigger reconstruction projects (like Grover St) to ensure we go through the Complete Streets process.
   c. Todd: We are working on our list/schedule of projects. Maybe that would be a good thing to bring to ALAC for input.
i. Ben: I would like that, and I think we could be helpful to you in identifying potential bike/ped improvements and maybe helpful in identifying possible funding to supplement.

d. Todd: We have presented resurfacing candidate lists to planning over last year for input on where it overlaps with proposed bike lanes
i. In most cases it would result in additional cost (signals or curb changes) which would require additional capital dollars, which we have not gotten approval/funding to do.
ii. Todd: We had heard rumors of a major philanthropic organization wanting to fund pedestrian, bike, and transit improvements in conjunction with the street preservation projects, but no confirmation.

5. Process for Adding Agenda Items

a. Derek: This is needed as we need lead time to get additional staff to attend an ALAC meeting to talk about a particular issue.

b. Pell: Is there a timeframe/deadline that is ideal for staff in having an issue put on the agenda?

c. Dennis: with Parks and Rec Advisory Board we have a two-week notice

d. Kevin: We wouldn’t necessarily need two week lead time, but if there is a public agenda item request submittal process as was discussed previously is included, that might be a good timeframe

 e. Mark: In our last meeting there was discussion of whether there could be a link to a form or an ALAC email address.

f. Derek: We use google forms for other things and that could probably work for this.

g. Mark: If we use a request form, we want it to be clear about ALAC’s role and not make it seem like we are basically a Mayor’s hotline for addressing complaints about active living issues or a board of appeals
i. Derek: We could put on the form a question about why the requested issue is in line with ALAC’s goals and mission

ii. Mark: I think that’s a good idea

h. Mark: We also want to have criteria to vet agenda requests

i. Pell: Perhaps could include a link to the Mayor’s hotline to help direct people who are submitting complaints or issues.

j. Kevin: Perhaps include a description of ALAC’s role at the top of the form.

k. Dennis: Maybe start with a mission statement and the types of issues ALAC makes recommendations around
i. Mark: Yes, a clear description of our role and scope of work is necessary. I’ve had to remind a lot of people we do not have a budget and don’t manage city staff.

l. Kevin: I will draft an agenda item request form and send it out for ALAC member review before the next meeting

6. Set July Agenda

a. Vision Zero update

b. How can we better incorporate social justice into decision-making around active living?

c. Active Living Goals in the Master Plan and ALAC’s role in supporting

d. Process for Adding Agenda Items (if needed discussion on public request form)
7. Adjourn
   a. Tameshia motion; Ben second; unanimously approved; adjourned 4:29pm