

City of Rockville
Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee (RPAC)
Minutes
Meeting No. 01-20
Thursday, January 9, 2020, 7:00-8:30 PM
Diamondback Terrapin Room, Rockville City Hall

(Items in bold indicate follow up/action items)

1. Convene/Introductions

Eric Fulton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendees

Eric Fulton (Chair), Corinne Abramson (Vice Chair), Ann Gaines (Town Center), Carol Nicholas, Judy Rudolph (Town Center)

City officials: Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, Councilmembers Monique Ashton and Beryl L. Feinberg

City Staff: Alyssa Roff, staff liaison. Marylou Berg, PIO; Chief Victor Brito, RCPD.

2. Committee Updates

Eric Fulton reported on the 12/10/2019 joint meeting with Traffic and Transportation Commission. There was consensus about the two groups sending a letter to the Mayor and Council in support of moving forward and fully funding Vision Zero and the Pedestrian Master Plan.

3. Updates from City Staff

- *11/25/2019 "Town Center Walk" to discuss use of pedestrian flasher indicators:* Participants included Alyssa Roff and Daniel Seo (Traffic and Transportation staff), Chief Brito, and RPAC members Kathleen Kleinmann and Judy Rudolph. While staff has forwarded other concerns about a sidewalk on 355, **staff is still looking into the issues with use and placement of the flashers on Beall and E. Middle Lane; no report back to Mr. DiSpirito yet.** There was additional discussion about HAWK lights, restricting right turns on red, widening crosswalks, and the use of standardized processes vs. other best practices.
- *12/16/2019 Mayor and Council Pedestrian Safety Discussion:* Alyssa provided a high-level review of her report to Mayor and Council. Councilmember Feinberg felt that there was alignment within the Council on this issue. Chief Brito pointed out his new data analyst can now track incidents to support analysis and trends. RCPD's strategy is short, specific and high intensity enforcement and education...and rotates so that people don't anticipate.
- **RPAC members requested a regular report of incidents accidents, fatalities and citations etc.**

4. Education/Outreach: Corinne Abramson and Judy Rudolph have met with City PIO Marylou Berg and Alyssa Roff about **RPAC's campaign ideas** (modelled on MCDOT concept. Councilmember Ashton noted that the campaign should clearly

delineate multiple target groups and key messages and have metrics defined to measure effectiveness.

5. Rockville Pedestrian Policy

Councilmember Ashton distributed copies of the 2008 *City of Rockville Synthesis of Pedestrian Policies* document which staff indicates is currently in place. There was discussion about its existing section on education and an item about the City maintaining ideas about innovative signs. Alyssa discussed the application of national standards and suggested that this be part of the Vision Zero discussion at the next meeting. **Eric asked that we get started with this, as soon as possible.**

6. FY21 Budget Requests

Eric announced that RPAC will provide testimony at the Budget Public Hearing during the 1/13/2020 Mayor and Council meeting. Priorities will include:

- Education and Outreach
- Implementation of Vision Zero
- New technology (HAWKS etc.)
- Funding/headcount for enforcement and community
- RPAC will be allocated 5 minutes to speak; residents can add comments and have 3 minutes to speak

Councilmember Ashton noted her support for RPAC's budget requests in hopes of getting a jump start on education and outreach before final implementation of Vision Zero, one- to two- years away.

7. Pedestrian Issue Tracker

Ann Gaines described the spreadsheet she has developed to track issues reported to/by RPAC. There was discussion about whether its purpose should be to identify broad categories of issues or individual issues. We hope to have capability to **view the tracker at the February meeting.**

There was discussion of several specific examples of issues and situations:

- Protocol for cars when pedestrians are in unsignalized crosswalks
- Visibility of pedestrian flashers/adding in medians
- Reducing speed limits
- Environmental design what impact environment has on visibility.

8. Open Discussion

- *e-Scooter update*
 - Alyssa reported that the County has extended its pilot another 6 months. They are tracking issues; there are ADA concerns and complaints about where scooters are left. Currently Rockville passes complaints along to the County.
 - Chief Brito said that he hasn't had any positive comments - significant issue locally and nationally Alyssa has requested a full report as why they extended and what they learned.
 - **Staff was asked**
 - **if anyone was tracking accidents and injuries**

- **if we can ask the vendor to do another push notice to subscribers re: rules and safety.**
- **can we put signs up indicating that there are no scooters allowed on sidewalks and on the Town Square**
- *RPAC agendas and minutes on City web site*
Will be posted in the near future

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

10. Upcoming events and meetings

- Monday, 1/13/2020 Mayor and Council Budget Hearing
- Thursday, 2/13/2020 - Next RPAC Meeting