

City of Rockville
Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee (RPAC)
Minutes
Meeting No. 04-20
Thursday, April 9, 2020, 7:00-8:30 PM
Virtual, Webex

Attendees:

Eric Fulton, Chair; Marissa Valeri, notetaker, Twinbrook Community Association;; Ann Gaines, Town Center; Ethan Goffman; Jonathan Goldsmith, Twinbrook; Judy Rudolph, Town Center; Carl Peterson, RBAC; Paula Hubble, Victoria Condos/Town Center
City official: Councilmember Monique Ashton, Councilmember Beryl Feinberg
City Staff: Alyssa Roff, staff liaison; Emad Elshafei, Chief of Traffic and Transportation; Chief Victor Brito, RCPD

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

City Updates - Alyssa Ross

A. Vision Zero Process

FY21 Budget Update - Councilmember Monique Ashton

Councilmember Ashton led the committee through the pedestrian-related items in the FY21 budget. She shared the good news that funding sources were found, during this fiscally tough time, to fund many pedestrian projects that had been proposed pre-COVID-19.

355 Hiker-Biker Trail - Ethan Goffman

Ethan spoke about the idea of having a dedicated lane on 355 during the stay at home order to encourage bicycling during this time of lightened car traffic. This idea arose from a County initiative where some streets were closed to car traffic in order to encourage exercise such as walking and bicycling. The Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee is supportive of the measure. Since 355 is maintained by the state, it was unclear how best to proceed to make this happen. Discussion around the County's role in the maintenance of 355 suggested that they could in fact do this. However, an ongoing issue that arises within RPAC is the coordination between the City and the County around pedestrian and traffic/transportation proposals. No clear route to making the trail happen was identified, and the proposal was tabled for now.

Open Discussion

A robust discussion ensued on the pedestrian experiences of the committee during the stay at home order. Members expressed that overall car traffic was down which made

the pedestrian experience much better. Others addressed speeding by the few cars that are on the road, seeing an uptick in speeding due to the lack of usual traffic. Chief Brito acknowledged that speeding is an issue that has been seen in other parts of the County so it would be natural to see this in Rockville.

The committee celebrated the “win” of having all pedestrian signals being automated so that the pedestrian would not have to press the button to activate it. This is critical during the public health emergency to lessen possible transmission via the button.

The meeting was adjourned.