



MEETING MINUTES

Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee

Meeting 22-10
Thursday October 13, 2022 – 7:00 PM

This meeting was held virtually and recorded for public access. The recording can be found online:

<https://rockvillemd.webex.com/webappng/sites/rockvillemd/recording/72c6272f2d79103bbf7dd2e64d734221/playback>

Minutes:

1. Welcome
 - a. Meeting Recording
 - b. Introductions
 - c. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Kathleen Kleinman to approve the September meeting minutes as prepared and shared; SECOND: Johnathan Goldsmith, Discussion: None; Approved: Unanimously.

2. City Update
 - a. Fleet St & Monroe St Complete Streets Project
 - i. This project is an MWCOG Transportation Land Use Connections project to study the feasibility of building complete streets. Existing conditions research has begun. When the deliverables are completed, they will be shared with RPAC.
 - b. Sidewalk Feasibility Studies
 - i. This project is to evaluate the construction feasibility of five sidewalk gap segments in the City. The project contractor for this project has begun to schedule the surveys for the sidewalk gaps.
 - c. Bus Stop pavement
 - i. Per a request for improved accessibility, additional pavement will be added to a bus stop at N. Washington St and Beall Avenue.
 - d. MD 586 & Atlantic Ave improvements
 - i. MDOT SHA completed roadway safety projects at this intersection.

e. Ritchie Parkway and Fleet Street

- i. New crosswalks will be added to this intersection as well as reconfigured curb ramps. RPAC members would like to know if the sidewalk approaching the curb ramp from the trail will also be redone. It is not part of the existing project scope, but staff will investigate the issue.
- ii. Generally, it is best for residents to submit service request via the online Form Center. Should RPAC as a group choose to advocate for additional facilities or considerations, the recommended course of action is to write a letter to the Mayor and Council and for a representative to speak at the Community Forum during a Mayor and Council meeting.
- iii. Upcoming site visits include Lemay Rd/Ridgway Ave and Holland Rd/Ardennes Ave.

3. Walktober Updates

- a. October 6, 2022, Walk-n-Roll-n-Talk follow up
 - i. Residents, RCPD, City staff, and elected officials attended a RCPD noted that many sidewalks were uneven and walking the streets provides a much more nuanced perspective about the pedestrian experience.
 - ii. Others appreciated the event and witnessed challenges to pedestrian travel, recommending that it be held more than one time a year, even monthly.
 - iii. One resident recommended that a camera be placed at the Fleet & Monroe intersection to help increase red-light compliance.
 - iv. Another recommendation included better lighting along Fleet St.

- b. Walktober Bingo Update – Buttons
 - i. The buttons have been well-received and a couple people have contacted staff regarding the bingo card and buttons.
 - ii. Buttons are available at city hall.

- c. October 20, 2022, Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Traffic Violence
 - i. The event is one week from today, 7:00 PM at City Hall

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- ii. Volunteers for donating candles and disposable cups are needed. Suggestions for speakers can be sent to Marissa Valeri.
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4. September Crash report

- a. There were six pedestrian/bicycle crashes in September (1 bicycle and 1 rideshare e-scooter) crash.
 - i. “Pedacyclist” crash was for scooter.
- b. Many crashes occur on parking lots. However, parking lots are private property, and it is difficult to mandate infrastructure changes. There are few regulations for pedestrian safety for parking lots.
- c. Parking lots safety may be a good area for RPAC recommendations for the future. Including alignment of spaces or facilities for people walking. It is not clear if driveway of parking lot is categorized as a “parking lot” crash versus a roadway crash. Usually, they are considered roadways. Parking lot access points are difficult to manage for safety. Motorists may not be aware of right-of-way responsibility.
- d. Parking lot safety and improvements recommendations will be a later topic of discussion.

5. RPAC membership and Recruitment – This topic has been tabled to future meeting.

- a. Inclusive membership
- b. Other community groups
- c. Student representation

6. Budget

- a. Pedestrian facilities “ask”
 - i. A google-document will be shared online so that anyone in RPAC can add potential projects to recommend in a future budget. These projects are a “blue sky” exercise and can include anything.
 - ii. This list can range from very specific items, such as individual sidewalk gaps to larger general projects.
 - iii. Potential items include:
 - 1. Transit access – all improvements necessary to access a bus stop as well as making the bus stop shelters and stops better for people.
 - 2. Raised crosswalks in pedestrian areas
 - 3. Painted intersections and painted crosswalks to help calm traffic and grab attention.

Paintings can reflect local community groups or efforts.

4. Replacing all crosswalks with high visibility crosswalks
 5. Making improvement to mid-block pedestrian crossings with pedestrian activated beacons, included potential HAWK signals or rectangular rapid flashing beacons
 6. Expand the Town Center car-free area to go from Rockville Metro to City Hall
 7. Fully separated and protected bicycle lanes
 8. Medians with planters for protected bike lanes or sidewalks.
- b. The budget process begins formally in the winter/spring. But it is a good opportunity for RPAC to advocate for specific projects.

7. Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee Coordination

a. Contributory Negligence

- i. RBAC has been drafting a joint letter from RBAC/RPAC to the Mayor and Council regarding guidance on advocating at the state level for a change from Contributory Negligence to Comparative Negligence.
- ii. This change would also be applicable for crashes between all road users, including pedestrian and bicyclists.
- iii. There is concern that bicyclists using sidewalks may not be subject to laws for yielding to pedestrians. Staff will review this issue.

MOTION: Kathleen Kleinmann to approve and send the Contributory Negligence letter for the Mayor and Council. SECOND: Paula Hubble; DISCUSSION: It is necessary to ensure that this will include all crash types. APPROVED: Vincent Sabol, Paula Hubble, Kathleen Kleinmann, Vincent Wu, Marissa Valeri; ABSTENSION: Johnathan Goldsmith

8. Open Discussion – None.

9. Meeting Adjourned- 9:00 PM

- a. Next Meeting: November 10, 2022, 7:00 PM

10. Parking Lot topics for future meetings

- a. Recommendations for RPAC member retention and recruitment

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- b. RPAC recommendations for improved pedestrian safety in parking lots
 - c. Pedestrian Related budget items
 - d. RPAC & RBAC discussion related to sidewalk use

Minutes prepared by: Bryan Barnett-Woods

Minutes reviewed by: Marissa Valeri

Additional Resources

[RPAC Home Page](#)

[Pedestrian Master Plan Home Page](#)

[Vision Zero Home page](#)