



**Meeting Minutes - Approved May 20, 2015  
City of Tucson Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

March 18, 2015  
6:00 p.m.  
Ward 6 Council Office  
3202 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Tucson, AZ 85716

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Approval of Minutes  
**Quorum established. The meeting was called to order by Wendy Lotze at 6:05 p.m.**

**Davita Mueller moved to approve the minutes; Moniqua Lane seconded. All were in favor.**

Pedestrian Advisory Committee Members:

| Present           | Absent         |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Jeannie Maldonado | Crystal Somers |
| John Anderson     | B.J. Cordova   |
| Davita Mueller    | Emily Yetman   |
| Moniqua K. Lane   | Maia Ingram    |
| Wendy Lotze       |                |
| Emily Lopex       |                |
| Forest Weier      |                |
| Valerie Vinyard   |                |

City of Tucson Staff and Members of the Public present:

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Sgt. Fernandez | Collin Forbes  |
| Ann Chanecka   | Vanessa Cascio |

2. Call to the Audience  
No Discussion. No action taken.

3. Tucson Police Department Liaison Update  
No action taken.

Sgt. Fernandez said there was a pedestrian fatality last week near Speedway and Rosewood. The vehicle was traveling northbound in the median lane, and the pedestrian stepped in front of the car. The driver remained on the scene and was not cited. Speed did not appear to be a factor.

He said there were seven accident injuries over the past month with pedestrians and vehicles. Two were on private property and occurred when drivers were backing out. One woman accidentally backed over her father, who sustained non life-threatening injuries. Another incident involved a bicyclist, and three others occurred when people were crossing in crosswalks. In those cases, the drivers remained on the scene and were cited.

One intoxicated man stepped out in front of a bus. At first it was called a hit and run but that claim was later rescinded. Another victim claimed his toes were run over while he was in the crosswalk.

Fernandez said another man's leg was "pretty badly damaged" when he was hit at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Osbourne. Fernandez did not know if he was intoxicated.

Another man that was hit was at Pennington and Scott. He had been at Junxion when he said his crown was stolen. He chased the women, who backed into him with their vehicle while escaping. When he returned to the bar, however, his crown was there.

Moniqua said there have been two incidences where a man has attacked two women at knifepoint in her Armory Park neighborhood. In both cases, he was fought off. She said it has impacted her pedestrian habits.

Wendy said there's probably a lot of crime that occurs that we're not aware of.

Fernandez said he met with Vanessa, and they have set up a crosswalk enforcement event near the University of Arizona stadium from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. March 31. There will be plainclothes officers crossing the streets, and if drivers don't yield, motorized officers will pull them over and either issue warnings or citations. It's with TPD and GOHS grant.

Fernandez said another problem area for pedestrians is by the courthouse downtown. He said that signs have been installed, which makes things better, but the area still is problematic.

4. **Landscaping, Street Trees and Maintenance – Gary Wittwer and Irene**

**Ogata**

No action taken.

John said he often hears people complaining that there aren't enough trees. He wondered what the city's plans are and how they decide what and where to plant.

Gary Wittwer gave a Power Point presentation called "Tree Planting Issues in the Public R.O.W."

He said he skewed the presentation for residential areas, but he said it was similar for other areas, too. He is the only landscape architect doing his work at TDOT.

He said the biggest thing that confronts them about planting trees is utilities. Sewer and electric lines run across the right of way, and you must pay attention to power lines. Because utilities have rights to be in the right of way, they must abide by these setbacks. You must call "Blue Stake" to get the utilities marked prior to planting.

He talked about sight visibility triangles. He said a main thing is safety, and there's a 50-foot setback for stop signs. Valerie noted that in her neighborhood, there are a lot of trees closer than 50 feet to stop signs. Wittwer responded that a lot of people plant trees illegally.

He said no one marks the sewer lines, which causes a lot of trouble.

He said two clear zones are required: pedestrians need 4x7 feet; in the street, they are supposed to be 8 feet clear; if there's construction, there must be 14 feet.

Trees must be selected off the Arizona Department of Water Resources approved plant list (there are a couple hundred trees on the list). You must get a permit to plant a tree in the row. Make sure it's the right tree in the right location and if he fits. He used to issue residential permits for free, but he said now permits are \$50 (\$120 total) to plant a tree.

He provided tips on planting, such as don't dig deeper than the root ball. He said a lot of times trees will sink down and water will collect around it. He said that's not good, because trees don't like to "get their feet wet."

**He then gave watering tips, which included:**

- Water every other day for two weeks after planting
- Then, water twice a week for two weeks, then
- Water once a week through the first summer
- Water once every two weeks for the next years

- Then water once a month for a year.
- From then on ...
- Water heavy once in Sept/Oct and May/June

Valerie asked what his favorite tree is. He said “a live one.”

Budget and maintenance costs prevent them from planting more trees. Eighty percent are private contractors.

Forest asked how they're getting watered if there's no irrigation and if they're using water trucks. Moniqua asked for an example of his work. He said there were four projects near Granada and St. Mary's.

He said the palo verde is our state tree, but it's been removed from the approved plant list because of witch's broom (“It devastates it.”).

**Trimming tips:** Never trim a tree when you plant it. Wait at least one summer before you start trimming.

**Second year:** Develop branch structure, remove crossing branches and keep branches off sidewalks.

He said a lot of trees in Tucson want to be “big shrubs.”

Don't cut off all the lower branches, because the vegetation down there is developing the trunk. That's why trees blow over.

He showed the correct cut on larger branches, namely to make three cuts.

It's not impossible to plant a tree in the R.O.W., but it can be complicated. Remember, safety first, sight visibility, utilities underground and overhead, setback and clear zones, approved plant list and approved maintenance and right tree in the right location. Make sure to maintain good maintenance.

He advised trying to go back farther from the curb.

Moniqua asked what the city makes developers do. He said there are buffer zones in the front and the side and there are a number of trees required. Forest chimed in with a lot of numbers and stats.

Ann said that one thing that came up on Broadway about how much space is needed for shade trees. She didn't know the answers. He said that if the area is too narrow, it is not suitable for planting trees.

He said they only hire certified arborists to do the pruning, but the action still devastates some trees.

John asked where funding comes from. Wittwer said it comes from HURF funding.

Last year, he said he (and others) planted almost 1,500 trees.

John asked the difference between Irene and Gary's job. Irene said she helps support Gary's projects. She said the problem of planting between curbs and sidewalks has become more difficult, and they're looking for more homeowners to plant in their yards.

John asked if there was a funding source to revitalize old areas.

#### 5. **PSA messaging – Pima Association of Governments**

Ann said that Good News Radio contacted the city and is interested in airing PSAs on pedestrian safety. Pima Association of Governments is developing the PSA. She said they're supposed to be finishing up and things the PSAs will begin running in early April. This is in collaboration with other pedestrian projects the city is working on. She said she wants to get brochures about pedestrian safety they can distribute. She asked for input and asked the committee to email her if we have any questions or issues with the two handouts she distributed at the meeting. Forest said "at first glance," it looked really good. Moniqua asked about what the messaging is for the PSA and wants Valerie to find out what it is and encourage balance. Vanessa said she'd like to know if they're doing any focus groups.

**Wendy asked if this was a point of action. Moniqua moved to have Valerie talk to PAG/Sheila Storm and ask to see the content. John seconded it.**

#### 6. **Broadway Boulevard** No action taken.

Ann said John took a lot of time to provide comment and gave kudos on his letter writing skills. She said the deadline has been extended to March 19. She said Maia sent out the amended letter to the proposed improvements to Broadway Boulevard. Wendy said she thought the letter included pretty much everything we wanted. John said he was talking about how best to use the width rather than discussing what different widths would do. Ann said Gabe put together a team that would focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety and she's excited to see what comes out of that. Wendy wants to keep this as an agenda item.

7. **PAC Member profiles - Moniqua Lane**  
No action taken.

First, Moniqua provided the correct pronunciation for her first name. Kenytta is her middle name. After being a miserable trust lawyer, she said she is developing real estate these days. She focuses on infill pedestrian development. She is close to opening a tiny motor hotel of 10 rooms at the corner of Stone Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. It's near a couple of restaurants, including Café Desta and Five Points. She's figuring out how to help make it a lively pedestrian corridor. She's also putting six single family homes on a vacant lot nearby. She said she would come back to the committee with questions and comments.

The Downtown Clifton is the name of her hotel, and it's going to start taking reservations April 1. She's thinking of offering a 20 percent discount to guests who don't have a car. The address is 485 S. Stone Ave. Rooms will be \$105 during the week; \$110 on weekends. She really hopes to create a sense of place.

8. **5<sup>th</sup> Street Bicycle Boulevard Project – Includes pedestrian crossing**  
No action taken.

Ann told us about an open house at 5:30 p.m. this Tuesday at Trinity Church, 400 E. University Blvd., about bicycle boulevard projects. They will be featuring the Fifth Street project. Phase One is a Toucan signal at Fifth Street and Euclid (pedestrian and bicycle crossing). They will be showing a concept of the rest of the corridor. She said if people want to weigh in, this would be a great time.

9. **Annual Report, PAC elections of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary**

Ann said Maia busted out a copy of the Annual Report and it is in our packet. Get her changes by the end of next week.

Ann said this was Emily Lopex's last meeting with us. She thanked her, and Emily said she was in the process of moving to L.A. She said there are more opportunities to pay for school.

Ann said the Ward 5 seat is still open. She noted that Crystal hasn't been in a while and hasn't heard back from her, so her seat also will be open. She asked for suggestions. Jeannie suggested reaching out to the Youth Coalition in town. Emily suggested City High, too.

Wendy Lotze adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.