

Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee
City and County of San Francisco
Minutes for Tuesday, February 9, 2010

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place (Polk Street), Room 408

Start Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present Members:

- John Ehrlich, D-2
- Delvecchio Finley, D-9
- Jay Lee, At Large
- Dahianna Lopez, PH (SECRETARY)
- John Lowell, CA (VICE CHAIR)
- David Pelfrey, D-4
- James Rhoads, D-5
- Richard Rothman, Senior (CHAIR)
- Raymon Smith, D-6
- Paul Supawanich, At Large
- Howard Strassner, Transit

Absent:

- Mark Benjamin, D-8
- Andrew Bley, D-7

Excused:

- Katy Lidell, PSO
- Pi Ra, PSO
- Kevin Clark, D-1

Staff:

- Maurice Growney, Assistant Engineer, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (filling in for Oliver Gajda, Pedestrian Program Manager).

*Effective February 2010, Mark Benjamin was removed from his duties due to at least three consecutive absences to PSAC meetings; thus, there are now 15 appointed members in PSAC.

*No Quorum on this day; only 11 members were present.

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Sunshine Taskforce – Cancelled
 - a. Sunshine Taskforce representative could not attend
3. Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) – Representative Burt Hill:
 - a. We have more in common than any other two committees
 - b. PSAC and the BAC need to increase its inter-committee communication; PSAC has open invitation to attend BAC meetings

- c. Background on BAC:
 - i. BAC has been highly effective
 - ii. BAC reports to the Board of Supervisors, but much of the work is done directly with the SFMTA
 - iii. BAC has been working on a “Bike Plan,” which has been under an injunction that has recently been partially lifted
 - iv. Currently, BAC has approval for 10 “simple” projects:
 - 1. For example: Bike Lanes which are too close to traffic, should have a yellow colored lane
- d. Recommendations by Mr. Hill:
 - i. Draft a joint resolution between BAC, PSAC, Senior Action Network (SAN), and other stakeholders to endorse a joint resolution (see handout).
 - ii. There are “5 E’s” that we use to categorize our efforts to improve bicycle safety: Education, Enforcement, Engineering, Encouragement, and Evaluation. One criticism is that we do not focus sufficiently on the other E’s aside from engineering. For example, San Francisco should prioritize enforcement.
 - iii. We need to operate based on data. The city lost a “great deal” when the funding was cut for the annual “Profile of Injury” report published by the San Francisco Injury Center—we really need that report.
 - iv. Another recommendation is to look at the dash lines at the end of bike lanes; it appears that no one understands them; perhaps replace those with share posts; and then evaluate those replacements.
 - v. Questions?
 - 1. Mr. Pelfrey (District 4):
 - a. We still have a bike seat on PSAC—is there a pedestrian seat on the BAC?
 - b. If we want to work closely together, it would be great to “share seats”
 - 2. Mr. Strassner (Transit):
 - a. Minutes should be shared between two coalitions
 - 3. Ms. Lopez (Public Health):
 - a. How much have we measured the effectiveness of the 5 Es?
 - i. Answer from Mr. Hill: We should look at MTA for those answers; but we should definitely assess the impact of the 5 E’s.
 - 4. Mr. Supawanich

- i. Jurisdiction over streets is fractured; we should recommend that the different agencies come together to evaluate piezoelectric
 - ii. He will send some links to studies so that we can all be more informed about it the next time he discusses it.
- 6. Item 5: Walk to School (Context: Board of Education is proposing two options to parents of school-aged children attending public schools in San Francisco; per an email sent by Mr. Gajda: *Option 1*: Parents can choose from any city school. Once a school is full, names would be placed in a lottery system. Academic performance would determine school assignments, with low- and high-performing students mixed. *Option 2*: Students would be kept in schools close to home. Parents would be allowed to choose other schools, but only if there is availability.)
 - a. Mr. Pelfrey: If we recommend option 2, we would keep kids from going to more diverse schools
 - b. Mr. Ehrlich: We should not recommend anything because this is about education and not so much about walking
 - c. Dahianna: If we recommend option 2, we may fail to look at the issue from a multifaceted perspective. Given that public schools are funded by property taxes, supporting option 2 would mean increased walking to a poorly funded school. Although not a parent, Ms. Lopez would prefer a child who walks less but has access to a better school. Perhaps the compromise might be to recommend physical education regardless of the option that is chosen.
- 7. Mr. Rothman's Chair Report:
 - a. Mr. Rothman reviewed duties of the committee
 - b. He plans to have PSAC write a mid-year report to the BOS
 - c. He met with Mr. Gajda (SFMTA), Mr. Lowell (Vice-Chair), and Ms. Lopez (Secretary) and discussed the following:
 - i. Short term and midterm goals for PSAC
 - 1. Set up taskforce
 - 2. Collect statistics
 - 3. Synthesize information
 - 4. Write report
 - d. He also has tried to recruit for the unfilled PSAC seats
 - 1. Talked to one of the school board members about filling the two school seats
 - e. He asked the Secretary, Ms. Lopez, to send letters to dismiss those people who have stopped attending PSAC meetings for at least three consecutive months (i.e., Seat 8).

- f. Mr. Rothman stated that Mr. Gajda would like PSAC's involvement in making recommendations about pedestrian projects funding under MTA
 - g. Mr. Rothman, Mr. Gajda, and Ms. Lopez attended the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Pedestrian Safety Summit on January 29, 2010 in Oakland, CA.
8. Announcements:
- a. Mr. Rothman asked the committee members to speak briefly about their backgrounds:
 - i. Mr. Pelfrey: Architect; interest in piezoelectricity, bicycle, and pedestrian safety
 - ii. Mr. Strassner: Has been involved in pedestrian safety activities since 1994
 - iii. Mr. Finley: Hospital Administrator; participated in Leadership San Francisco and learned to be a steward of the environment via participation in city commissions; interested in pedestrian safety
 - iv. Mr. Smith: Interested in pedestrian issues.
 - v. Mr. Lowell: Member since August 2006; was victim of auto-versus-pedestrian collision; currently studies in the seminary
 - vi. Mr. Supawanich: Transportation Planner; works with public agencies on pedestrian and bike/non-motorized
 - vii. Mr. Ehlich has been on multiple advisory committees
 - viii. Mr. Rhoads: Pedestrian; has worked on pedestrian issues in the past; has been a long time member of Walk SF
 - ix. Mr. Lee: Attorney; Interested in pedestrian safety
 - x. Mr. Rothman: Has always had an interest in public transportation issues; was on advisory committee for half cent sales tax; worked on transportation issues when he worked for San Francisco General Hospital
 - xi. Ms. Lopez: Registered Nurse; Currently the Prevention Director for the San Francisco Injury Center at UCSF; works on multiple pedestrian injury prevention research projects as well as violence prevention and mental health projects.
9. Public Comment:
- o Marie Hunter
 - Students and walking to school: option 1 seems to go against the Safe Routes to School Initiative--- please consider this when drafting any recommendations.

Minutes Composed by Dahianna Lopez, RN (PSAC Secretary)