

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REVIEW BOARD
MEETING MINUTES AMENDED
January 21, 2020
10:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Brown, MBC Planning & Zoning,
Chair
Rachel Hollar Umana, Bike Walk Macon,
Vice Chair
David Gowan, Bibb County School District
Michael Ryan, Citizen
Captain Brad Wolfe, BCSO
Myrtle Habersham, AARP
Charise Stephens, Georgia Wellness &
Fitness Festival
Nigel Floyd, MBC Traffic Engineer
Ron Wildman, Citizen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michele Harris, MBC Assistant County
Attorney
Sherita Jones, MBC Budget & Strategic
Planning
Kimberly Lowe, Middle Georgia Regional
Commission
Holly Wharton, Middle Georgia Regional
Commission
Liz Fabian, Mercer University Center for
Collaborative Journalism
Kaye Cleveland, Recording Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rob Ryals, MBC Facilities Management
Lieutenant Scot Davis, BCSO
Commissioner Joe Allen, MBC Health
Department
Commissioner Elaine Lucas
Sam Henderson, Director – MBC Small
Business Affairs

Chairman Greg Brown called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Ms. Myrtle Habersham, seconded by Ms. Charise Stephens and passed unanimously, the minutes from the December 17, 2019 Meeting were approved.

Policy and Legislation

Vice Chair Rachel Umana discussed proposed changes to the Complete Streets Policy. The group was advised efforts to include the Pedestrian Safety Review Board and seek additional funding to expand the Complete Streets Policy may be considered in the future.

Engineering

Mr. Nigel Floyd discussed a Road Safety Audit conducted by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on Mercer University Drive starting at Dellwood Drive to Bloomfield

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Drive. Areas displaying potential hazards to pedestrians and drivers were identified. Atwood Drive was identified as a main area of concern. The group was advised installing a traffic light on Atwood Drive discussed to ensure pedestrian and driver safety. Information was collected for composing a report of recommended improvements on Mercer University Drive. Mr. Floyd informed Board Members said report would be issued soon.

Enforcement

Captain Brad Wolfe informed the Board the Sheriff Department filmed Public Services Announcements (PSAs) regarding traffic safety. The first PSA discussed the topic of red lights. A deputy discussed the laws in regarding running red lights. Captain Wolfe informed board members running red lights was a problem in Macon-Bibb County. Board Members were informed the rules of the road regarding drivers and pedestrians would be discussed in another PSA. Said PSAs will be aired on the Sheriff Department social media pages which include Facebook and Instagram.

Public Communication

Chairman Brown discussed the vacancy of Chair for the Public Communication Subcommittee. Chairman Brown canvased group members regarding a nominee for Chair. Ms. Stephens has an inquiry regarding the duties of the Chair of said subcommittee. Said duties were explained to her. Ms. Stephens volunteered to serve as Interim Chair of the Public Communication Subcommittee. Chairman Brown entertained a motion to nominate Ms. Stephens as Interim Chair of said committee. On motion by Mr. David Gowan, seconded by Mr. Michael Ryan and passed unanimously Ms. Charise Stephens will serve as Interim Chair of the Public Communication Subcommittee.

Interagency Coordination

Mr. Gowan gave an update regarding Safe Routes to School. Mr. Gowan stated he contacted a Safe Routes to School Representative. Group members were informed the Board of Education was in the process of coordinating a Safe Routes to School Initiative.

2020 Census Update: Ron Wildman

Mr. Ron Wildman informed the group he contacted Ms. Jessica Walden, 2020 Census, regarding coordinating with the Pedestrian Safety Review Board. Board Members we advised a meeting will be arranged soon. Vice Chair Umana opened discussion regarding funding for Census Outreach Efforts. She was advised legislation for said funding was scheduled to be passed at the Macon-Bibb County Commission Meeting that evening.

Discussion: Bike Walk Macon – Expansion of Open Streets

Vice Chair Umana informed the group funding eligibility with the Macon-Bibb County Economic & Community Development Department would be discussed at a future Bike Walk Macon Board Meeting. The group was advised Open Streets Macon was being planned. No further updates were given.

Update to accomplish Vision Zero/Next Milestone – Bob Dallas

Mr. Bob Dallas was not in attendance at the meeting to give an update, however, Chairman Brown briefed the group regarding weekly conference calls implemented to further the goals of Vision Zero. Board members were told the timeline to accomplish Vision Zero was from now until 2040. Mr. Floyd advised the board Vision Zero Consultants wanted to know what milestones the PSRB wanted accomplished regarding Vision Implementation. Milestone years included 2025, 2030 and 2035.

Grant Funding Availability Update – Sherita Jones

Ms. Sherita Jones, MBC Budget & Strategic Planning, gave an update regarding the 2020 Grant Funding. The board was informed entire amount funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety was available. The total amount of funding was \$23,905. Ms. Jones briefed the group regarding pending expenses to be deducted out of said funds.

Field Trip: Michael Ryan & Charise Stephens

Ms. Stephens and Mr. Ryan presented information to board members about a field trip he and Ms. Stephens took to canvas areas in Macon-Bibb County. Pictures from areas in Tindall Heights, East Macon (Main Street) and other locations to observe student and pedestrian safety. Specific issues discussed were the lack of crosswalks/sidewalks & signage, the dangers of blighted areas & people in motorized wheelchairs and security concerns for students walking to/from school. Discussion ensued with Mr. Ryan discussing previous recommendations made for areas of concern. Ms. Stephens elaborated further discussing progress made since previous recommendations were implemented, however, she also stated more progress needed to be made.

Vision Zero Website: Chairman Greg Brown

Chairman Brown presented a draft layout for the Vision Zero Website. Chairman Brown discussed potential webpage content presented to him by Mr. Dileep Garimella, KLS Engineering. No official vote was made to accept the proposed content. Board members were asked to provide feedback for the next weekly conference call.

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Future meetings will be held on the following dates in 2020: February 18; March 17; April 21; May 19; June 16 and July 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Cleveland
Recording Secretary

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