

Minutes

Italian Village Society Complete Streets Implementing Committee Thurs, December 1, 2016, 5:30pm, Seventh Son, 1101 N. Fourth St.

Present: Andy Klein (Chair), Isom Nivins, Christopher Vidoni, Shiloh Todorov, Sherrill Massey, Rory Krupp, Stephanie Harris, Shannon Fergus, Amanda Ford, Betsy Pandora, Steve Hurtt, Melaine Mahaffey, Diana Lessner

Andy called the Streets Committee to order at 5:32 pm in the backroom at the brewery over beer and Mary Janes, asking everyone to introduce themselves, state their affiliation, and their favorite Halloween treat.

Short North Special Parking Area Amanda Ford, Parking Services Coordinator for the City of Columbus, provided a handout and described the process which resulted in the recommended “in lieu fee” for Short North new developments, changes of use, and building additions which do not provide enough off street parking. She noted that the Short North Working Group has been meeting monthly for about a year discussing this and other recommendations of the Short North Parking Study's June 2015 recommendations. Staff from traffic management and zoning examined parking variances in the Short North over the past several years and concluded that High Street corridor is the most affected by parking variances, not Harrison West or Neil Avenue, so they are not included in the plan that goes before the Development Commission Dec. 8. Also excluded are art galleries (which are defined), single family buildings on separate parcels, and small retail. None of these uses would be required to provide “in lieu fees” when a parking variance is needed. Condominiums would be covered if they provide less than 1 parking space per unit. To discourage large developments with deep pockets choosing to pay the “in lieu fee” rather than provide parking, special thresholds will be applied requiring individual approval by commissions and Amanda's office working together. Funds from the “in lieu fees” will go to parking needs within the boundaries of the district and could be used to subsidize C-Bus, create cross walks, employee parking programs, etc. City Council is due to hear it in January, so those projects already in the pipeline at BZA before the expected February effective date would be exempt from the rules. The legislation will be consponsored by Shannon Hardin and Jaiza Paige since both zoning and public service are involved. Desirable projects (affordable housing, museums, etc) would be given special review. Stephanie noted there's a working group to define affordable housing and suggested they be consulted. Amanda reported there's been no push back from developers, and that both VV and IV Commission have sent letters of support. Most of the questions have revolved around permit parking, which is not a part of this legislation. That will be the next issue targeted by the Working Group. Who will determine how the money from the “in lieu fees” is spent is undecided but will involve collaboration with the stakeholders.

Short North Parking Study Update The next step for permit parking is to determine the boundaries and fees for the paid on street parking proposed. Amanda is sensitive to the need to turn over parking spots so residents are not inconvenienced and is concerned that the proposed \$1.50/hour won't be effective in getting visitors cars off the street when garages are charging \$2/hour. The city has no control over garage pricing even though they've been subsidized by public money. The city has no interest in running garages but Amanda hopes the new legislation may allow incentivizing garages to reduce pricing when appropriate. Savannah, GA has been

suggested as a useful model for us when looking at permit parking, which Amanda hopes act on within the next year. The signage pilot has been delayed by the Federal Highway Commission's insistence that a human factor study be conducted. Amanda noted that no minutes are taken at the working group meetings to encourage freely flowing discussion. The parking meters around Goodale Park have been adjusted to encourage more use during the day, and the city's stepping up enforcement of the 3 hour limits within the park using new license plate reading technology. They've issued about 100 citations for exceeding the in park limit of 3 hours but have not towed anyone except multiple violators. Amanda's remarks were much appreciated and met with applause. Andy noted that he had invited the neighborhood representatives to the Working Group to participate in today's discussion, and while Betsy and Steve did participate, Rex Hagerling and Mike Navarro were contacted twice and failed to respond or appear.

Eden Alley Improvements Stephanie reported that the hotel does not appear to be complying with the proposed trash removal system or deliveries, and an on site meeting is planned for December 6 at 1pm.

College Alley Improvements Christopher reported that IVS sent a letter November 18 to the Commission advocating brick and sandstone on College Alley. Shannon reported the Commission had written a letter to city advocating the alley and a portion of the service lot be bricked. No response yet from the city or developer, who will likely resist the request.

Sidewalks and Curbs Survey Shiloh reported that sandstone's been installed on Beck between City Park and Pearl. Shiloh hopes the stark white color will fade over time, and suggested more psi testing may be appropriate. We reviewed the Council for Historic Neighborhoods recommendation to make sandstone curbs mandatory for new developments in the pre-1950 city limits, that like for like be required otherwise, and that we advocate removing and flipping sandstone curbs to increase their life or scavenge them and be added to an inventory. Christopher reported that he's hoping for city funding of surveys for all the pre-1950 neighborhoods sidewalks and curbs in his November 18 letter to the commission, which was also sent to Jennifer Gallagher, Steve Schoeny and Mike Stinziano.

Third and Summit Crosswalk Stephanie raised the issue of conducting another study of the intersection when Amanda was here, she promised to follow up. Although there was a study 3 years ago, circulation patterns have changed since then, justifying another look at the problem. COTA has expressed its concern and neighbors are encouraged to use the 311 system to register our concerns with the city.

Brickel Alley Vehicular Access Betsy noted that business owners have expressed interest in removing vehicles from Brickel, given the increase in retail uses there. Andy noted that IVS is on record as advocating safety improvements for all the alleys intersecting High Street, which could include closing them to vehicles.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 pm. IV Potluck is December 13.

Respectfully submitted,