

BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON
Citywide Neighborhood Committee
Minutes of the November 18, 2014
Approved 3/10/15

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson at 7:00

II. Cristy announced that an attendance sheet was going around.

III. Aaron Garganta made a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting, Cliff Lazenby seconded, all voted yes.

IV. New Business –

2015 Meeting dates – Aaron Garganta motioned to accept dates, Cliff Lazenby seconded motion, all approved.

The State of Transportation in our Neighborhoods – review of findings.

Cristy explained the survey that was recently conducted on the state of transportation in our city and neighborhoods and went over specifics such as # of respondents, where from, how far residents commute, as well as how residents found out about the survey. Results from each question on the survey was reviewed by Cristy Cardoso, Cliff Lazenby and Kathy Bergeron. The concept of a word cloud was explained by Cristy, that the words appear bigger, the more they appear in the text answers. Cliff Lazenby explained that while it is impactful, it may be better understood by reading the full text of the answers in the addendum.

General discussion regarding the results and what would be taken care of in other initiatives, currently underway, or in the master plan. How do we know where we stand on any of this?

Cristy – Maybe the city needs to do a better job communicating to residents.

Diane Stradling stated that the city needs to do updates on the master plan every two years, and explained her experiences with Portsmouth Listens. There is a section for updates, but it has not been updated

Zelita – There is an updated version on the planning website of the Master Plan

Cristy – asked how the Master Plan is getting input

Zelita – the city council is working with Portsmouth Listens, which last did the plan in 2003.

Diane Stradling – Portsmouth Listens is trying to get info on how their proposals have done.

Cristy – Back to the survey, the big issues seem to be enforcement, can we pick 4 other issues that need immediate action

General discussion on the issue that much of this was already asked in other city initiatives, such as Safe Route to School and the Bike/Ped Master Plan.

Zelita Morgan – Even if it is redundant, we need to know what people want.

Aaron – Asked if we need a follow up survey to dive into more specifics.

Cristy – We will identify hot spots and areas most mentioned.

General discussion went on discussing the biggest issues and identified as:

1. Communicate Bike Ped Plan
2. Identify problem areas
3. Enforcement.

Suggestions to pull text items from survey to support points. Cristy explained that the full text will be in the addendum.

Zelita – Thanked committee at 8:15 for hard work, and needed to leave

Aaron – Asked about the highway noise issue in the survey, and asked how hard a survey was to conduct. Cristy explained that the Highway issue is a city issue, not a neighborhood issue, and we need to handle that separately.

Cristy explained that we would be presenting this to the city council, and asked what we should ask for as a follow up.

V. Old Business – Cristy reminded everyone of the steering committee vacancies.

Cristy reminded everyone about NextDoor.com and explained it is a social network for Neighborhoods that would allow the police to put alerts out. Example: Closed roads or emergencies.

VI. Neighborhood Reports –

Aaron Garganta Sherburne Civic Association, dealing with some vacant buildings, including the former store building.

Kathy Bergeron – Wahoo, just dealing with construction, all else quiet

Aaron Garganta: Motion to adjourn

Cliff Lazenby” 2nd

All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:20