

Notes from the Chair April 12, 2017

This note is in the packet and also available to the public at the same time as commissioners, the intent is to briefly outline activity taking place outside of the commission meeting. If any part of this needs to be discussed at the meeting, please let me know.

There has been a bit of activity since the last commission meeting.

The representatives are already shifting with people coming and going, including from the Disability Commission. Rebecca Benedict has resigned. Timothy Hull has been appointed as the new Disability Commission representative.

My first meeting was with Kayla Coleman, our staff liaison; Brad Strader (MKSK) our meeting consultant; Chris Frost and Howard Lazarus. We went over how committees can work as part of the commission work, how to better use and respond to public input, and clarifications about the commission's work and future. A few highlights that I noted:

If we want to expand our focus on other transportation issues broader than our original charge, we should ask for that expansion from City Council.

The recommendation is that committees be set up as we go along and in response to the suggested work plan, rather than creating a bunch now in anticipation of work we'd like to do. The committees already suggested will be incorporated into that work plan timeline.

We spoke at length about the role of a commission in responding to complaints and suggestions. Since we aren't actually set up to act on either, learning how to best direct that input would be helpful. That's the first step. We can also make a time for brief responses to public input – I'll ask for that after public input but will keep it short. The other method is to essentially have a "sidebar" right then and there with any individual public commenter. That would mean a commission member stepping away from his or her seat and – perhaps in the hallway- having a direct conversation with the commenter. We can try this out and see how it goes.

Commissioners can also track and report the types or details of concerns they are receiving and any details, and provide that info to Kayla to compile and bring back to the commission as she finds it helpful and fits into the agenda and work plan.

We also have feedback that we can use social media for our commission, but that all submissions would go through the city communications office. We can routinely post info about our upcoming meetings of course, and ask for any additional information to be given out as it comes up. As Chair I can make that suggestion as we debate things, plan for the future, or want to drive specific input. I hope individual commission members would also point out what would be good to include in the city's social media contacts.

Kayla and I also had an hour long agenda setting meeting. This includes getting a feel for how to bring up items, format, pacing, what to focus on, and future planning. I hope that as it becomes clearer to commissioners how we are proceeding we'll also start getting feedback on that so that it isn't just a two person process, and we can do better.

I'll attend the Allen Creek Greenway meeting the morning of our next meeting, they are scheduled to connect with us in September to ask for our support.

I received this link from Steven Kronenberg, documenting his bicycling experience in Ann Arbor. He has also spoken at our meetings about his concerns.

https://youtu.be/FnhtxeP_0k. This will give a little context from Steven: "I believe the first 5 segments occurred [in one week]. These aren't the most egregious incidents but rather the most ubiquitous (including coming upon garbage bins in bike lanes during predawn darkness). The fish-eye lens means that vehicles are actually CLOSER than they appear. The audio is also poor and picks up mostly the wind or my voice, not the profanities shouted at me from vehicles or passersby." And of course, he has offered to talk to commissioners as well.

My only other concern addressed to me this month were about the crosswalks on Newport Road, that should be better aligned for visibility and this person would like to see a signal light installed.

I look forward to seeing you next week!

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