

# Ped Bike Notes

**Wed November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 7:00-8:30PM**

City Hall Cassidy Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Enter from the ground-level entrance at the rear of the building  
(opposite the parking lot)

## **Guests:**

Kara Showers - City Liaison, Melrose/Wakefield Public Health Coordinator  
Lauren Grymek - Executive Director, Melrose Chamber of Commerce

## **Present:**

Ryan Williams  
Dan Krechmer - Vice Chair  
Ellen Katz  
Liz Foulser

## **Discussion items:**

### **1. Melrose Chamber of Commerce**

Members give quick background and introductions for Lauren. Lauren discusses the work of the Melrose Chamber of Commerce. Lauren previously worked for a similar organization that developed strategies for South Boston businesses to help their employees find alternative (walk/bike/transit) ways to work to help alleviate parking concerns in the South Boston commercial districts.

The Melrose Chamber organizes 4 annual events with the city providing in-kind services (police costs, street closure costs, etc): 1) Victorian Fair 2) Summer Stroll 3) Halloween and 4) Home for the Holidays. She works directly with department managers to manage the process of organizing events, e.g. John Scenna, Chief Lyle.

Members asked for her perspective on Chamber views on bike/ped access, whether the business community was supportive or hostile to our mission. Lauren described removing parking for bike lanes being universally disliked, but also mentioned that most businesses will support anything that brings more customer traffic to stores.

Ryan & Ellen discussed potential projects the Chamber would be interested in supporting. Ideas mentioned included short-term pop-up projects intended to attract attention like parklets, & wayfinding/pedestrian improvement corridors to help customers and employees find and use underutilized parking lots to alleviate typical main street parking concerns.

Lauren was positive on the idea of wayfinding as something beneficial to businesses, short-term in scope, and permanent in impact that the Chamber would consider supporting. She discussed the timing of Chamber board meetings - January is their annual planning meeting. December or February are good meetings to discuss new projects. We suggested providing a presentation for neighborways and/or wayfinding, complete streets, Oak Grove advocacy, etc, to show their 17-person board at a meeting. Lauren suggested that the three executive committee members might be a good place to start. Lauren laid out the scope of "business districts" in Melrose including Cedar Park, Franklin Square, Lower Franklin, West Wyoming, Main St. Windsor at Oak Grove.

For projects Lauren is able to support (like wayfinding), some funding is possible. Parklets, wayfinding, and potential discounts for members (bike discounts were mentioned but we should consider broader PBC discounts). The Chamber's board likes long-standing projects with lasting impact. Ellen has more detail on the idea of a

discount for bike riders at local neighborhoods with some kind of helmet-sticker or other ID to show membership to the discount group.

## **2. Other business:**

1. We discussed the driving to school / walkability report. Although a few of the recommendations in the plan have been made and well-implemented, there are still unmet needs. Might be potential to work with Melrose PD to discourage parking and dropping off in inappropriate areas, advocate for new sidewalks in high-traffic areas around the highschool where kids frequently walk.
2. Complete Streets - discussion of overlap with SRTS infrastructure and opportunities via a vis email with ryan and Judy Crocker - Elena is floating the idea of using SRTS infrastructure funds to add new sidewalks around the Hoover school where there are a few very large and unstructured intersections.

There will be an evaluation and review of the CS projects. Dan will report back at next meeting about how the evaluation conversations went.

Jonah was not present but we agreed that he should provide update on infrastructure and NS bike route progress from Elena either in person at the next meeting or before via email.

3. Kara updates from city - Emma Schnur from Planning wants to be on the email list and would like to be on rotating list of city personnel. She's the new city planner who has attended several public meetings relevant to our interests.
4. Brief discussion of upcoming snow shoveling ordinance vote in the board of aldermen meeting (the vote failed). Folks disagree on value of supporting the ordinance to enforce homeowners with fines for not shoveling but agree on the importance of shoveling the curbs out and making sure DPW and contractors do not block sidewalks and intersections in. Kara mentions that Reading is a good city to compare Melrose to, in her opinion. Ryan will do further outreach with Mike and speak personally at the Board of Aldermen's meeting about the issue of plowed-in sidewalks and curbs, with photo evidence.

Notes by Ryan Williams