



City Commission Work Session Minutes

February 9, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

City Hall, Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Mayor Phil Anderson, Commissioners Sheila DeCiccio, Kris Cruzada (in person) and Marty Sullivan and Todd Weaver (virtual); City Manager Randy Knight; City Clerk Rene Cranis

Also Present

Senior Planner Lucas Cruse; Compete Streets Practice Leader Angelo Rao and Complete Streets Project Manager Kelly Farabee, of Patel, Green & Associates; Director of Transportation Charles Ramdatt; and Engineer Hong Lim

1) Call to Order

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2) Presentation

a. Audubon Park Main Street Program - John Rife

John Rife owner of East End Market gave a presentation on the Main Street Program and spoke about Winter Park's unique and distinct character and how to develop the local economy. He spoke about the success of the Audubon Park Main Street Program with entrepreneur training, commissary, feedback fair, seasonal shops, and start-ups. He spoke about unique events organized by main street businesses, which should be a goal of Winter Park, to have local businesses focus on community. He spoke about parking challenges in the city and suggested different ways the city can provide unique opportunities for use of the old library and Progress Point.

Mayor Anderson noted that the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) has been working with a retail consultant to survey major corridors to determine what types of businesses (including office segments) should be encouraged in the city. He spoke about annexation efforts along Fairbanks Avenue and noted that Brian Canin is working on a conceptual vision for a six to eight-block segment with buildings that are commercial/retail on the first floor and residential on the second and third floors. He invited Mr. Rife to attend an upcoming EDAB work session to present and discuss strategies and opportunities.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Rife for his presentation and congratulate him on is successes.

3) Discussion Item(s)

b. Transportation Master Plan Update by Patel, Greene & Associates

Hong Lim, Engineer, said the purpose of this meeting is to report on milestones and components of the Transportation Master Plan and noted that this update has also been presented to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). He explained that the milestones being reviewed today would cover existing conditions and project evaluation metrics, taking and updating contents of the previous mobility plan, and establishing methodologies to prioritize projects.

Mr Lim reviewed the purpose and scope of the plan which will be prepared by city consultants Patel, Greene and Associates and spoke about available grants and the importance of the plan toward receiving grants. He provided updates on deliverables requested by the Commission which are part of the scope. Mr. Lim noted that TAB had a joint meeting with PRAB that resulted in a decision where the parks department will be made aware of any item discussed at TAB may that affects parks.

Lucas Cruse, Senior Planner, PGA, introduced the team and reviewed the plan project schedule, comprehensive plan, existing programs and policies, and context from a land use standpoint. He reviewed the existing transportation networks of streets, responsible agencies for roads, speed limits, bicycle paths and transit routes. He explained the metrics and analysis of conditions, i.e. traffic stress and travel time, pedestrian and bicycle stress levels. and went over TAB's recommended considerations for elderly pedestrians, and future demographics and technologies i.e. electric and connected vehicles. He reviewed topics discussed at the January 30th TAB meeting: tools to address traffic speed, calculations for level of traffic stress for bicyclists and guidelines toward best practices and design standards, SunRail access and pass-through traffic.

Angelo Rau, PGA, reviewed existing technology related to pedestrian and school safety. special event management and traffic signals. Mr. Cruse recapped the points of the scope that were discussed and opened the floor for questions.

Commissioner Sullivan noted that a portion of Orange Avenue is city-owned and feels the city should be doing something different with it.

Commissioner DeCiccio said the crosswalks (RFDs) put in at Morse and 17-92 are working and asked if there is anywhere else where crosswalks need to be upgraded sooner than later. Mr. Cruse said the team is in the process of that of collecting existing crossing information to understand where the demand is and will provide recommendations of places to add crossing improvements in the next update.

Commissioner Cruzada spoke about safety concerns for pedestrian and bicycle traffic on Interlachen and noted there are a lot of elderly residents in that area with ADA vehicles. He asked if there is a way to manage different demographics for the area such as tourists, dog walkers, people movers, and children on bicycles. Mr. Cruse said the issue can be addressed by making bicyclists more comfortable on the road.

Commissioner Weaver commented on Orange Avenue and said the goal is to make parking safer and to slow speed. He asked if striping could be done along Orange Avenue to have the same effect of median dividers as was done on Denning Drive. Mr. Cruse said a study of Orange Avenue can be incorporated into the plan to address the issue and said community dialogue will be important.

Commissioner DeCiccio suggested using prior studies of Orange Avenue done by Kimley Horn. Mr. Cruse said the team has been looking at the mobility plan that was developed in 2019 and is incorporating prior projects that are still relevant but haven't yet been accomplished. He will review the studies directly related to Orange Avenue.

Mayor Anderson spoke on the following points of the scope and suggested the following additions:

- Context (slide 6) - Should note the potential annexation areas southwest of Lake Killarney and commercial properties south of Fairbanks. as well as the recent purchase of property for a fire station at Wymore and I-4.
- Freight routes (slide 8) – Currently, delivery vehicles are parking on main roads such as Palmer and Aloma. How can courier services be managed?
- Bikeway inventory- Add points where the city wants to connect the most vulnerable, i.e. elementary and pre-schools and other high-risk travelers
- Metrics (slides 11 and 12) – Rating system for Aloma through Brewer Curve should be changed to higher demand.

Mr. Cruse reviewed the basis for the categorization of streets (land use) and pedestrian level of traffic stress and said the data can be changed to reflect current conditions. Discussion followed on high-speed traffic concerns in the area of Aloma through Brewer Curve. Mayor Anderson said the commission may ask the team to conduct a (what-if) scenario of westbound volumes to compare with data from FDOT. He raised the question of whether it is possible to one lane westbound traffic with a 30-mph speed limit along the curve and how that would impact peak hour volume at a lower speed.

- Slide 17 - Next Steps: Implementation – assist staff as some future projects and priorities are delineated.

Mr. Cruse said the team will be assisting staff and added that the full list of projects will have a planning level cost, estimate of prioritization based on all criteria and a target funding source to determine what grants to submit.

Discussion followed on the criteria for determining speed limits and the process for changing speed limits Commissioner Cruzada spoke about traffic issues along the Fairbanks-Brewer Curve-Aloma (old library area) and asked if there is an opportunity for the city to encourage FDOT for a reduction in speed on the road Mr. Cruse reviewed DOT standards for posted speed limits.

Director of Public Works and Transportation Charles Ramdatt responded to questions on city ownership and intent for Orange Avenue. In reference to crosswalks, he said there needs to be more understanding of context for crosswalks on highly traveled roads. He addressed challenges for people using mobility devices in pedestrian-rich environments, pedestrian traffic to/from parking areas, considerations of annexed, and review of freight and courier deliveries. He said the city can reach out to delivery services to discuss the impacts to traffic and consideration for deliveries at different hours.

In reference to posted speed limits, on high-traffic roads, Mr. Ramdatt agrees with Mr. Cruse that the best way to approach the issue is to employ context-sensitive design features and to look at rebranding/redefining/changing design features on roadways. In addition, staff is actively looking at bicycle connections on a micro level. Lastly, FDOT has done some micro-analysis on Aloma Avenue (at Brewer Curve), he will confer with city management to determine if an independent microanalysis can be conducted.

Mr. Knight noted he has received requests to lower flags to half-mast for Carol Rosenfelt who recently passed and noted there are specific protocols the city must follow for flags. He said there will be a proclamation issued at the February 22nd commission meeting to recognize Mrs. Rosenfelt.

4) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Mayor Phillip M. Anderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk Rene Cranis