

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Pathways Ad Hoc Committee, August 19, 2009

-- Election of officers. Gary Kuhl was elected chairman, Victor Romano was elected Vice-Chairman. Karen Cohen is secretary.

The committee decided to go through the plan segment by segment.

Bryan Cooper gave a presentation of the plan as it now stands. The idea of closing off one side of 8th Avenue, one side of 113th and 115th streets and creating paved strips over the medians for driveway access has been jettisoned.

There was broad agreement on the use of traffic tables at the intersections of 8th Avenue and 113th and 114th streets to slow down cars, trucks and other traffic.

There was some discussion about the parameters of the proposed walkway through the big median in front of the Village Hall. A determination of what it would be composed of is still needed.

Committee members also talked about the possibility of having the path itself placed around the edges of the median rather than through it, in order to conserve green space.

Committee members agreed on placing markings in the roadway on 8th Avenue north of 114th Street and along 115th Street to designate pedestrian and non-vehicular traffic. The idea of signs designating non-vehicular traffic was also discussed. There was discussion as well on whether or not to mulch areas of the 8th Avenue median to give walkers, adults with strollers and other non-vehicular traffic a place to go to get away from cars.

There seemed to be agreement among committee members as to creating a cul de sac at 8th Avenue and 114th Street. It was mentioned that several people on the route were still not in favor of the idea.

Questions were raised on whether we would have the money to pay for additional median landscaping.

The idea was also raised as to whether it might make sense to actually expand the width of the 8th Avenue median. Questions were raised about the narrowness of the road as precluding that approach.

Gary Kuhl suggested that we need diagrams of the streets and widths in order to go further in our planning.

Dan Keys raised the idea of conceiving of a larger walkway that would go to 125th Street and continue to 10th Avenue and create a larger loop.

It was thought that such an expansion might be part of a continuing effort by the committee, but not something that could be incorporated into this plan that is dependent on the transit stimulus funds.

Bryan noted that we need to have our ideas on paper fairly quickly to present to the commission as we are working under deadline.

The committee agreed to meet every other week with the next meeting scheduled for September 2 to continue reviewing the plan segment by segment.