

## **Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH) Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021, Noon to 2:00 Rothschild House State Park garden

**Attendees:** Pat Teal, Marion Huxtable, Jack McCreary, Nancy Villagran

**Absent:** Nancy Johnson, Miranda Nash

**Excused:** John Frasca

**Guests:** Emily Mandelbaum, Thomas Olson (Police Chief), Steve King (Public Works Director), Laura Parson, (City Engineer)

**Additions to Agenda:** None

**Minutes:** August Minutes Minutes approved.

### **Treasurer's Report: John Frasca sent by email.**

I still have not received the invoice for the brochures. When that has been paid, I will complete the UGN report. If Miranda has the PO box bill, I need the amount due. I will pay the PO box bill this month. It needs to be paid by the end of the month.

### **Report from Steve King**

- Steve reported that the 2 handrail extensions at top of Haller Steps have been installed.
- The Baby Buggy Trail has been improved to reduce the grade at the top. It will be further compacted to make a firmer surface.
- The kiosk at Chetzemoka park is finished and a map of the park is included. This concludes the work on improvements that DASH had requested on paths and signage.
- 2 corners at Tyler and Lawrence will be improved with ramps and curb cuts following the City's approval of using banked capacity to fund this.
- When funding becomes available for repaving Lawrence Street, there will also be curb ramps and curb cuts installed on Lawrence. The section between the Uptown Business district and Kearney will be handled first. The section towards Monroe would be the second section to be repaved.
- A curb cut and ramp will be installed at Mountain View on Blaine.
- A curb cut and ramp will be installed on Blaine coming down from the High school.
- Public Works will plan on banked capacity use next year also for street improvements.
- The plan is to have sidewalks on 9<sup>th</sup> to connect to McPherson – connects Business Park to Jefferson Healthcare. Marion mentioned remaining short section of gravel trail between Business Park and McPherson. The Business Park management has resurfaced and compacted the section that is within the Business Park but there remains a short section on city property that has an unstable surface.
- A path is being created on Cherry in the area of the Lutheran Church – could be turned into sidewalk later.
- \$500,000 are budgeted for pedestrian improvements to Kierney Street to supplement the improvements that will be associated with the roundabout.



### **Report from Laura**

- The design for Discovery Road will be finished by the end of December and construction is to start in March.
- Laura described the extent of the Discovery Road Project.
- The planned walk regarding the edge treatment between the cycle track and sidewalk will be rescheduled.
- Laura will forward an invitation from DASH to schedule the simulated walk at the PT roundabout to Dan McKernan, WSDOT Project Engineer for Olympic region. Marion will send the invitation to Laura.
- Any date is available except October 20. Noon is the suggested time.
- Will ask Tyler Johnson if he would like to be included.

### **Chief Olson**

- Chief Olson described his work and his goals for the Police Department. He has a background with State Patrol and was UW Deputy Police Chief, with 33 years total.
- One of the challenges here is the incomplete staffing. Chief Olson described the recruitment, hiring and retention of officers. There are not enough suitable applicants and a field of 30 can get reduced to only one hired and trained officer.
- Currently the Department needs 3 officers and 1 supervisor. Officers currently have to do extra shifts to provide full service.
- Covid has added an extra difficulty to recruiting due to restricted travel.
- A policy of allowing officers to take their car home will help, especially when home is at a distance as can happen with the cost of housing here.
- Recent legislation has added new demands that need to be implemented including the new requirements on use of force.
- Some disability issues mentioned were diabetic crises and hearing disabilities.
- The Navigator position is fairly new and fills a need that is unmet by other agencies for mental health crises. The Navigator works four 10-hour shifts. He knows the clients.
- The County also has a Navigator and they are able to work jointly to provide better coverage.
- New requirements mean that the Navigator operates alone rather than with a police officer, although with backup available.
- Use of force is still in need of more guidance for the mental health situations.
- For mental health situations, Chief Olson points out that prevention by appropriate agencies would be better than using Police.
- Disabled parking places were mentioned and Chief Olson said it is appropriate to call Police if someone is illegally parked.

### **ACAC**

Has not met, so no new information.

### **Future Meetings**

October 5. We will again meet at the Rothschild House.

Submitted by Marion Huxtable