

# Delaware Pedestrian Council Land Use Subcommittee Meeting #0 Minutes

**Date:** Friday, October 11, 2024

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Zoom

**Attendees:** Michael Smith (Chair), Jamie Whitehouse, Kelly Valencik, Anthony Aglio, Jared Kauffman, Sabrina Shultz, Anthony Nobile (JMT)

## I. Call to Order and Welcome

- Michael Smith began the meeting with roll call and allowed the committee members to introduce themselves.

## II. Review of Subcommittee Purpose and Goals

- Michael Smith presented the draft mission statement, “We strive to create vibrant, walkable communities that prioritize safety, accessibility, and the well-being of all residents, while fostering environmental stewardship and equitable land use development.”
  - Jamie Whitehouse suggested using “emphasis” rather than “prioritize”.
  - Jared Kauffman suggested adding language about making sure infrastructure is actually used, and Jamie Whitehouse suggested adding the phrase “high-quality”.
  - Anthony Aglio suggested moving “land use” to the front to stress our subcommittee’s land use focus.
- Michael then directed the group to look over the draft goals:
  - **Safe Streets for All:** “Ensure that all land use decisions prioritize pedestrian safety by advocating for the implementation of traffic calming measures, safe crossing infrastructure, and well-lit pathways, reducing pedestrian-related accidents and fostering a secure walking environment for all residents.”
    - Jamie Whitehouse suggested using “emphasis” rather than “prioritize”.
  - **Promote Walkable Communities:** “Advocate for land use policies that prioritize pedestrian friendly infrastructure and reduce car dependency.”
    - Jamie Whitehouse suggested using “emphasis” rather than “prioritize”.
    - Sabrina Shultz suggested including language regarding land use strategies that promote placing people closer to the things that they need, specifically suggesting phrases like “density” or “walkable amenities”.
    - Anthony Aglio suggested using the phrase “spatially connected”.
  - **Enhance Accessibility:** “Ensure that all land use planning considers the needs of individuals of all abilities, ages, and backgrounds.”

- **Foster Sustainable Development:** “Encourage the integration of green spaces, sustainable design, and environmentally responsible practices in land use decisions.”
- **Support Equitable Growth:** “Advocate for land use strategies that promote social equity, ensuring that all communities benefit from safe and accessible pedestrian environments.”
  - Jamie Whitehouse mentioned adding “that are suitable for all” at the end.
- **Collaborate and Educate:** “Work closely with local governments, planners, and communities to share best practices and raise awareness about the importance of pedestrian-focused land use planning.”

### III. Establishment of Meeting Logistics

- Michael talked about how the meetings should look moving forward.
  - The group agreed that a Zoom / Teams call would be the best for everyone, and to use polls to see everyone’s availability and pick the best time for future meetings.
  - Jared Kauffman asked if there was ever a need for an in-person meeting, Michael Smith said that he can’t think of any, but we can decide to do so later if desired.
  - Kelly Valencik reminded the group that meetings will need to be advertised at least a week in advance.

### IV. Discussion of Potential Focus Areas

- The group started to discuss potential areas of focus:
  - Jared Kauffman mentioned talking about zoning and trying to encourage a different way to zone or think about the separation of land uses.
    - Anthony Aglio thinks zoning is a place where we can be aggressive.
    - Jamie Whitehouse added that much of Europe bases zoning not on form, but on performance, and some cities in Virginia are switching wholesale.
  - Michael Smith mentioned the topic of stroads, and particularly the large number of exits and entrances to shopping centers and gas stations.
  - Anthony Aglio added that many facilities aren't connected to front doors, so we could focus on creating stronger networks between right of ways and residences.
  - Sabrina Shultz mentioned the idea of complete streets and the new requirement that municipalities need to start considering climate change in their comprehensive plans, perhaps we can convince them to promote walking better.
    - Anthony Aglio noted that he will send a near-final draft of a complete streets guide to the group once he gets his hands on it.

### V. Adjournment