

Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting Agenda
Public Safety Building- Morgantown, WV
Monday, March 8, 2010, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Dwight Harshbarger, Christiaan Abildso, Tomorrow Wilson, Matt Cross, Bill Reger-Nash, Jon Bond, Stan Cohen, Jimmie Simmons, Don Spencer, Maria Smith, Martha Summers, Regina Mayolo, Illana Chertok, Chuck Coole, Mike Breiding

II. Meeting format discussion – Christiaan discussed a new, more formalized rules of order

III. Set date and time of next meeting – ***PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING DAY & TIME***

- Bill motioned that the meetings move to the first Monday of the month from 4:30-5:30.

Beginning at 5:30 pm, there will be 30 minutes available for public comments. Motion was second by Jimmie Simmons, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Attendance Check & board membership verification

a. Current membership:

- i. Chair -- Christiaan Abildso - 2nd Ward
- ii. Vice-Chair -- Bill Reger-Nash - Outside city
- iii. Secretary/SGA rep– Jon Bond - WVU SGA
- iv. Other Voting Members:
- v. Bob Anderson - 7th Ward
- vi. Sarah Bias - 1st Ward
- vii. Ilana Chertok - Outside City
- viii. Stanley Cohen - 2nd Ward
- ix. Matthew Cross - 4th Ward
- x. Dave Harshbarger - 5th Ward
- xi. Dwight Harshbarger 5th Ward
- xii. Hugh Kierig 2nd Ward and WVU Transportation
- xiii. George Lilley - Outside City
- xiv. Jimmie Simmons - 3rd Ward
- xv. Don Spencer - Traffic Commission
- xvi. Martha Summers - Outside City
- xvii. Maria Smith- Mountain Line

- **Pedestrian Safety Board Membership:**

- Motion made by Chair Abildso to nominate Jon Bond to serve as the secretary of the board.

Second by Bill Reger-Nash. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Other changes to the board are noted above.

- A motion was made to have Regina Mayolo and Jan Derry serve as co-representatives of Morgantown residents with disabilities. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Ms. Mayolo is a member from the Center of Excellence and Disability Service and Ms. Derry is the Executive Director of northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living.
- Councilman Spencer noted that any changes to PSB membership must be approved by the Morgantown Traffic Commission.
- Bill noted that the 6th ward (Woodburn) was not represented on the current board. Bill stated that Woodburn has an active neighborhood association, and will send an email to them

V. Future role of Pedestrian Safety Board – Bill Reger-Nash

- Our role is more important now than ever before. The Board’s job is to serve as a Citizen Advisory Board and advocate for safe walkways, walkway lighting, and traffic calming. The city manager formerly indicated that installing thermoplastic cross walks throughout the region should not be a problem. We need to work with Terry Hough in City Engineering and with the West Virginia Department of Highways. Our conduit for WV DOT should be Bill Austin, executive director of the Greater Morgantown MPO.
- Bill recommended that we designate task forces to address:
 - o Crosswalks
 - o Safe Routes to Schools
- **Snow Removal:** Discussion of the enormous problems encountered on sidewalks. Property owners seemed to have total disregard of their responsibility for snow removal. Matt noted that it might be necessary to make pamphlets for the city code and pass them to businesses. Bill commenting that the code needs to be changed to snow removal before noon the day after a snowstorm. Councilman Spencer recommended adoption of a code similar to one from Wisconsin, which requires that (to paraphrase) property owners remove snow from their sidewalks by noon of the day following a snow storm. Fines are then levied for first and second offense.

- Stan stated that the fee was premature in regards to the open forum, and stated that we need to set measurable goals for the accomplishments of the board such as the neighborhood connecting sidewalks. Also, how do you take existing codes, and establish them as the norm?
- Dwight stated that council has not stepped up, and recommended that we find out how many citations have been given over the last 12 months for sidewalks maintenance violations, and see how many will be administered in the future.
- **Safe Routes to Schools:** Jimmie stated that implementing safe routes to school (SRTS) was a priority. She further explained that individual property owners near WVU have been quite neglectful. WVU students have fallen and treated at the hospital because of this negligence of snow and ice removal.
- A motion was made by Jimmie to create a task force involving the SRTS, which was second by Matt. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- Thus, the subcommittees are charged with carefully reviewing the Pedestrian Safety Plan to determine if it adequately addresses issues related to SRTS.
- Subcommittees were established:
 - i. Safe Routes to School – Matt, Jon, Jimmy
 - ii. Crosswalks – Mike, Regina, Chuck
- Rather than creating subcommittees replicating other work, the following recommendations were made:
 - i. Traffic Calming – ask the Traffic Commission if a PSB representative may volunteer to assist the Traffic Commission’s Traffic Calming Sub-committee.
 - ii. Walkway Lighting – ask the Green Team if a PSB representative may volunteer to assist the Green Team with Walkway Lighting Sub-committee.

VI. **Pedestrian Safety Plan Changes** (see separate report) --- not addressed

VII. Don suggested that we examine suggested priorities for the Morgantown City Manager regarding how to use the \$200,000 the city has budgeted for sidewalk upgrades. There is a deadline of the April city

council meeting. Christiaan will email the Pedestrian Safety Plan priorities in terms of the connecting network sidewalks

Motion by Stan Cohen to adjourn. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday April 5th @ 4:30pm – 5:30pm, Public comments from 5:30pm to 6:00pm.

Location: Public Safety Building, Training Room 1.