

## **Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board (PSB) Meeting Minutes**

Public Safety Building- Morgantown, WV

*Monday, January 26, 2008*

Attendance: Martha Summers, Tyler Pearson, Bob Anderson, Pat Reilly, Councilwoman Jenny Selin, Jimmie Simmons, Don Spencer, Stanley Cohen, Christiaan Abildso, Angela Wiley, Hugh E. Kierig, Bill Reger-Nash,

### I. Call to Order

Christiaan Abildso called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

### II. Attendance Check

Bill announced that Roz Becker was resigning her PSB membership because she had taken a seat on another board. Also, Ilana Chertok expressed her difficulty of making meeting owing to traffic congestion. Councilwoman Jenny Selin said that meetings at City Council Chambers were accommodated for teleconferences. Bob Anderson suggested Skype on a computer.

Martha and Bill agreed to explore the phone capabilities at the Public Safety Building, in order to accommodate members like Ilana who could only participate remotely.

### III. Discussion of Board Membership

Christiaan was interested in approaching different neighborhood organizations about the Pedestrian Safety Plan. He said he attended a South Park Association of Neighbors (SPAN); he asked for more contacts. Stan said he would help coordinate different meetings with Christiaan. The goal in attending different meetings would be to promote the plan and ensure that effects of the plan will reach all neighborhoods.

Bill suggested reviewing the membership list to find unrepresented neighborhoods for new membership.

Jimmie said she would attend the Neighborhood Watch meeting on February 11 at 7:00 pm at the Public Safety Building to represent the Pedestrian Safety Board, hear concerns and recruit members.

### IV. Pedestrian Safety Plan Update

Bill said that the initial Pedestrian Safety Plan was very well received by the Traffic Commission.

Don said the size of the document was the main problem with distribution. The

document is approximately 175 pages. The graphics make it too large a document to transmit by most email accounts.

Christiaan was also working on changes based on comments from Traffic Commission members and other entities. He also attended the January Traffic Commission meeting to check in with the commission.

Christiaan said a final draft of the Pedestrian Safety Plan was due to the Traffic Commission by Tuesday, January 27. He planned to attend the Traffic Commission meeting on Wednesday, February 5, beginning at 6:30 pm. Other Pedestrian Safety Board members are encouraged to attend as well.

Stan asked what steps needed to be taken to implement the plan. Don said Traffic Commission would submit it to City Council once approved. Don emphasized that the financing proposal within the Pedestrian Safety Plan was a key component in moving it forward. Dan Boroff estimated \$500,000 would be generated from a 50 cents per linear property frontage foot. This amount might enable bonding and capital for projects.

Members discussed the idea of raising the assessment, in light of the cost of projects. Don pointed out that the varied prices for sidewalks [based on the difficulty of the project] make it difficult to determine if the assessment would cover enough projects per year to yield progress for taxpayers. Bob suggested \$1.00 per linear foot would double the capital and therefore double the ability for projects to be completed. Bob motioned that the assessment be set at \$1.00 per linear foot fee. Bill seconded the motion and Christiaan opened the topic for discussion.

Christiaan and Don estimated that \$20 million would be needed to fund the currently proposed pedestrian and traffic calming projects.

Members present unanimously voted to recommend a \$1.00 per linear foot assessment.

Tyler asked what the time frame would be for a vote from City Council to endorse the funding of the Pedestrian Safety Plan. Don answered that July could be a realistic month, as it marks the beginning of a new fiscal year. Thus, ideally the plan would be adopted by City Council no later than May, 2009.

Jimmie announced that her neighborhood association was beginning research on streets in her neighborhood to track pedestrian traffic and corresponding need.

Bill suggested adding an agenda item to the next PSB meeting to address marketing ideas for the Plan and the proposed financing structure. He again supported attendance to neighborhood association meetings to see what projects and research they are conducting.

Members agreed that Tyler would be a good candidate to explore ways to document pedestrian issues on WVU's campus, perhaps using pictures and videos.

#### V. Developing Community Partnerships

This topic was discussed briefly within bullet III.

#### VI. "Year of the Pedestrian" Discussion

Bill asked for opinions on the "Year of the Child" spin-off for 2009. Members discussed ways to create a concise slogan to encapsulate many different modes of transit, such as buses, bikes and PRT. **2009 Year of Active Transport, *Walk it! Bike it! Bus it! PRT it!*** was discussed.

Jenny Selin described the "Year of the Child". She said the campaign grew out of a small group concerned about childcare and after school programs. They needed funding and publicity; so they tapped political resources to create the "Year of the Child" and forward their initiatives. She said the campaign required a large commitment from individual members, in order to make the year a success.

Members discussed the "key players" for a "Year of Active Transport" campaign, including the PRT, Bike Board and Transit Authority. Hugh Kierig of WVU Transportation and Parking said WVU was planning on promoting the second annual "Transportation Week" in September, emphasizing a different mode of transportation each day.

Stan and Jenny clarified that a "Year of Active Transport" would involve participation in existing events as well as original events.

Bill asked members to e-mail event ideas to him and invite potential recruits to the next meeting on Tuesday, February 10. The social marketing planning session would begin at 5:00 pm.

Bill will invite graphic artist WVU Professor Eve Faulkes (293-2140, x3143, [efaulkes@wvu.edu](mailto:efaulkes@wvu.edu)) and School of Journalism faculty to the planning session to brainstorm advertising ideas.

#### VII. Pedestrian Safety Education Initiatives

Members agreed that this was covered well in bullet VI.

#### VIII. Set Time & Date of the Next Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting

The next Pedestrian Safety Board meeting was set for Tuesday, February 10 from 4-6 pm at the Public Safety Building. The planning session for the social marketing campaign events for the "Year of Active Transport" was slated to begin at 5:00 pm.

## IX. Adjournment

Angela motioned to adjourn at 5:53 pm. Jimmie seconded.

| Member                                    | Action  | Due Date   |
|---|---|--|
| Christiaan; all other PSB members invited | Attend Traffic Commission meeting to present revised Pedestrian Safety Plan   | February 4, 6:30 pm @ City Council Chambers              |
| All                                       | Send list of currently planned and proposed Active Transport special events to Bill at <a href="mailto:wreger@hsc.wvu.edu">wreger@hsc.wvu.edu</a> . | February 6   |
| Bill and Christiaan                       | Compile neighborhood representation of all Pedestrian Safety Board members  | February 9   |
| Bill and Martha                           | Set up teleconference capability  | February 10, 4 pm  |
| <b>ALL</b>                                | <b>Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting</b>  | <b>Tuesday, February 10, 4-6 pm, Public Safety Bldg.</b> |
| Jimmie Simmons                            | Attend Neighborhood Watch meeting at the Public Safety Building   | February 11, 7:00 pm @ Public Safety Building            |

Minutes prepared by Angela Wiley, edited by Bill Reger-Nash