

# **Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting Minutes**

Public Safety Building- Morgantown, WV

*Tuesday, February 10, 2009*

**Attendance:** Angela Wiley, Don Spencer, Matthew Cross, Jimmie Simmons, Bob Anderson, Sarah Bias, Dave Harshbarger, Bill Reger-Nash, Tyler Pearson, Christiaan Abildso, Jenny Selin, Hugh Kierig, **Ella Belling, Frank Gmeindi, Anna Phillips, John Lozie, Maria Smith, Katie O'Hara, Catherine Douglas, Simi Islam, Ashley Caroloso, James Rye, Nick Hein**

## **I. Call to Order**

Chair Christiaan Abildso called the February Pedestrian Safety Board meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

## **II. Attendance Check**

Angela Wiley circulated the sign-in sheet.

## **III. Discussion of Board Membership**

Christiaan recommended Sarah to stand in for Tom Bias' First Ward position.

Members discussed appointing other neighborhood association members to empty positions.

Jimmie Simmons asked about the relationship between the Pedestrian Safety Board and neighborhood associations in relation to proposed projects from the Wiles Hill Neighborhood Association. She was concerned that ad hoc organizations would be making plans without consulting or realizing the existence of the Pedestrian Safety Board. Christiaan agreed that participation from different organizations would be a positive step towards preventing duplication of ideas.

Bill Reger-Nash pointed out that the Pedestrian Safety Board had reached out to associations in the past, with little neighborhood assn. participation at the Board's monthly meetings. Don agreed that communication with associations was important, however, in making sure that city-wide plans reflected the intentions of neighborhood associations.

Christiaan suggested each board member attend a neighborhood association meeting to improve communication and compile concrete opinions regarding the plan. Dave Harshbarger said he could attend the South Hills meeting; Christiaan volunteered for the Greenmont association; Bill agreed to do Woodburn.

Matthew Cross asked if the Pedestrian Safety Board was making an effort to contribute to the Dominion Post. Don suggested sending news releases to the paper; Christiaan said he had a summary on his computer of the plan, which he would send

to members for publicity. He also mentioned that this issue could be further discussed in item five on the agenda.

#### **IV. Pedestrian Safety Plan Update**

Christiaan informed members that the Traffic Commission voted to accept the Pedestrian Safety Plan, with the exception of Section 10 which included the financial infrastructure. The Commission said they did not accept Section 10 because they felt it was not their position to make a decision about taxation.

Jimmie reiterated the need for publicity regarding dangerous intersections and walkability through photos and community walks, in order to gain support for the Pedestrian Safety Plan. Sarah Bias pointed out that many motorists could interpret such an event as more incentive to drive; this led Hugh Kierig to point out that education for motorists was just as important as safety education for pedestrians.

Bill re-focused the conversation to finding board members to attend neighborhood associations. Sarah said that First Ward only had annual closed meetings. Members formally volunteered to attend the meetings: (Matthew) Suncrest, (Bill) Woodburn, (Hugh) Evansdale, (Christiaan) Jerome Park/Sabraton, (Christiaan) Greenmont, (Dave) South Hills. Don said he would send contact information for each association. He also stressed that the support of these associations was critical in the campaign to forward the plan.

Members discussed the responsibilities of homeowners in regard to sidewalks. Dave pointed out that if residents knew they could be alleviated of the obligation to replace sidewalks in front of their house by paying the Pedestrian Safety Board's proposed annual service fee, it could become a selling point for the plan. Don reviewed that the City Code provided that a block of neighbors had to gain a 2/3 vote and then pay to replace their own sidewalk. Sarah voiced that the city would not want to take on another obligation, however. Christiaan said that the city engineer said the service fee would help their projects.

As the conversation closed, Christiaan reiterated that he would send talking points to members attending neighborhood association meetings.

Bill clarified in response to Jimmie's concerns that traffic calming was included with the funding proposed in the Pedestrian Safety Plan, but that the traffic calming proposal was another document. Members discussed the possibility of including percentages of monies that would go to traffic calming and other projects.

#### **V. "Year of Active Transportation" Event Planning**

The minutes for this portion of the meeting are recorded below the Action Plan, as a separate meeting.

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

The next Pedestrian Safety Board meeting was planned for Tuesday, March 10 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Public Safety Building.

## VII. Adjournment

The February Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting was adjourned at \_:\_\_\_ pm.

Member	Action	Due Date
<b>Christiaan, Hugh, Dave, Bill, Matthew, Jimmie</b>	<b>Communicate with assigned neighborhood associations</b>	<b>March 10, 2009</b>

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Public Relations and Community Activities  
Morgantown: 2009 Year of Active Transport  
Public Safety Building  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Note: This meeting occurred from 5:00-6:00 pm in conjunction with the February meeting; several new participants arrived at 5:00 pm to attend this portion specifically. The names of these people are **bolded** in the attendance list on page 1 of the minutes.

### I. Introduction/Ideas

Bill Reger-Nash introduced the idea of the publicity campaign, which was built off the “Year of the Child” of 2008 conceived during the Pedestrian Safety Board’s January meeting.

Members re-introduced themselves, as new people showed up specifically for the public relations portion meeting. Newcomers included students completing senior capstones for Journalism public relations majors, the Mountain Line Transit Authority, organizers of the Max’s Challenge bike ride, Positive Spin, the Rail Trail Conservancy, and the Bicycle Board. As everyone introduced themselves and presented ideas, Bill made a feeble attempt to record their suggestions. See below in bold. Ideas included piggybacking on existing events, creating publicity through newspapers, and creating educational forums.

### II. Other Promotional Ideas

Bill passed around a list of Promotional Ideas including walking school buses, “Leave Your Car at Home Day”, educational work in schools, and cooperation with law enforcement.

Bill asked everyone to help him flesh out one event per month to use as publicity. He recorded dates for Positive Spin's Trade-up Day, 'Trail Mix', WVU's Transportation Week. As time ran out, Bill asked if anyone was willing to spearhead work on any of the events discussed in the brainstorm.

Matthew asked if Bill would e-mail out his list of ideas for participants to sign up. Bill said that while this was a good idea; but stressed that time was of the essence, in order for the idea to be presented to City Council in a timely manner.

Bill asked those present to submit a one-page proposal of their event details and ideas to him so he could gain council's endorsement.

### **III. Time Frame/Next Steps**

Volunteers were to submit their one-page proposals to Bill so he could compile them.

### **IV. Next Meeting**

The follow-up meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 18 at 4:00 pm at the Public Safety Building Training Room 1.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

## **Morgantown 2009 Year of Green TransACTION**

***Walk it!***

***Bike it!***

***Bus it!***

***PRT it!***

***Car Pool it!***

**March 100 miles in 100 days. Kickoff on March 23, 2009, at Ruby Hospital. Might include a special walk-to-work recognition this year.**

**April Bike Trade up Day on April 24 Heim  
Earth Day Celebration  
Earth Day Fair at MHS Angela  
BH<sub>2</sub>O Water Walk**

**May WVU Student Event  
Appalachian Spring Spectacular (1<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday in May)**

**June National Trails Day  
Dump Your Plump Campaign  
West Virginia Day**

**July July 4 Parade**

**Aug Marie at Waterfront  
Ped Ed Booth**

**Sept Transportation Week at WVU  
International Car Free Day**

## **Transportation Pooling**

**Oct Multimodal Facility Dedication  
National Walk to School Day  
Walking School Bus**

**Nov Pedestrian Injury Feature**

**Dec Christmas Shopping by Bus**

## **OTHER IDEAS**

**Collegiate Bicycle Racing Event - Tyler**

**Carnival for Kids – Katie**

**Improved visibility and respect for Bicyclists -  
Frank**

**WVU Health Fair with booth – Simi**

**Ped Ed – Matthew**

**Neighborhood Walk Abouts - Jimmie**

**Bike to Work Day**

**Walk to Work Day**

**Bus to Work Day**

**Car pool to Work Day**

**PRT to Work Day**

**“Max’s” uphill challenge - John**

**Regular Letters to Editor of DP and DA - Bob**

**Meet with Owner and editorial Board of**

**Dominion Post. Monthly participant**

**profiles of people walking, biking,**

**bussing, PRT, and car pooling to work.**

**Kids Day with Mainstreet Morgantown – Jenny**

**Bike Board Safe Riding Courses. Publicize**

**these as well as the WV DOT grant-Frank**

**Adventure Race in the Fall. Having a good time around the Mon River and Deckers's Creek – Jenny**

**Awards to event Participants who travel to event using Active Transport**

**Rediscover your feat - Christiaan**

**Develop a Ped Booth - Christiaan**

**Arts Walk. Kids in strollers, folks of different ages, credit for stopping at stores – Sarah**

**PRT To Community Events - like the Arts Walk, parades, Winter Festival, Chocolate Lovers Day.**

**Booth at the Farmers Market - Hugh**

**South Park is doing a homes tour in the fall or around Christmas holidays - Hugh**