

Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Council Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Building- Morgantown, WV

Monday, April 13, 2009

Attendance: Christiaan Abildso, Lisa Milice, Stanley Cohen, Hugh Kierig, Tyler Pearson, George Lilley, Maria Smith, Martha Summers, Sarah Bias, Ilana Chertok, Matthew Cross, Jimmie Simmons, Bill Reger-Nash, Dwight Harshbarger, Bob Anderson, Kevin Leyden

I. Call to Order

Chair Christiaan Abildso called the April meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board to order at 4:07 pm.

Christiaan introduced WVU Journalism student Lisa Milice, who was observing for a class assignment.

II. Attendance Check

An attendance sheet was passed around as March Minutes were reviewed.

III. Review of March Meeting Minutes/unfinished business

Christiaan reviewed action items from last meeting.

Vice-chair Bill Reger-Nash did not get in touch with Judy Reckart and Secretary Angela Wiley did not get in touch with Terry Cutwright.

Christiaan said he wanted to work out talking points for all members, in case media contacted them during the Year of Active Transport.

Christiaan and Bill submitted articles for *The Dominion Post* through June. Bill wanted to begin thinking about drafts for July and later months. He asked Hugh Kierig of WVU Transportation and Parking to draft September and October, because they would set the mood for incoming students.

Bill asked Sarah to draft a July article about the July 4th Parade, Kids' Day, walking to the Farmer's Market, and Kids' Day.

Bill wants John Lozier and Laura Kemp-Rye to draft an article about the "Uphill Struggle" bike event for the August article.

a. Active Commuter Profiles

Christiaan talked with one woman to profile. He also said he would send out questions regarding the profile. Matthew Cross volunteered to coordinate the writing of these profiles.

IV. Discussion of Board Membership

Christiaan and Angela both did not attend the April Traffic Commission meeting to amend group membership. They planned on attending the May 6 meeting.

V. Neighborhood Visit Updates

- a. Christiaan Abildso – Greenmont: The association received a \$5000 grant to study the potential effectiveness of a foot-bridge from the bottom of Kingwood Street to the rail trail. Members' concerns included maintenance of sidewalks, since their neighborhood was already well connected to downtown.
- b. Bob Anderson – Suncrest: Residents seemed interested. Questions about motorcycle parking downtown were raised. The biggest intersection residents had an issue with was University Avenue and Junior Ave. Bob pointed out that University Avenue was in the process of becoming a state road; this could mean less 'home rule' with respect to proposed projects.
- c. Dave Harshbarger – South Hills: Dave was not present at the meeting to report.
- d. Upcoming – Bill Reger-Nash to Woodburn: Bill planned to attend the April 20 meeting.

VI. Year of Active Transport update, key event: Bike Trade up Day, Positive Spin, April 25

Bill suggested taking out a monthly ad in *The Dominion Post* to feature events that the Pedestrian Safety Board endorsed as part of the Year of Active Transport. He suggested compiling the events and submitting them to Dan Boroff.

An informal discussion about bike racks began. Members concluded that the Bike Board and Parking Authority were actively working on these issues.

Jimmie Simmons said Wiles Hill Neighborhood Association was planning a clean-up for Earth Day. Bill encouraged Jimmie to send press releases to *The Dominion Post*.

- a. Impact EARTH and Earth Day 5K, April 18

The run was planned for 9:00 am. Food, booths and music were going to be stationed at Hazel Ruby-McQuain Park.

- b. Earth Day Celebration at MHS – April 22

Positive Spin and Mountain Line were slated to attend and promote active transportation to students.

- c. WVU Earth Week, April 19-25 to include Transportation Day April 18

Hugh said the Earth Week events would include a conference at the Waterfront Place Hotel, unveiling of carpool matching on Facebook, and WE-Cars (2 on each

campus). The Enterprise sponsored hybrids would be available for hourly rental.

Hugh also talked about a permit program, where students, faculty, and staff who chose active transport will be given “Occasional Parker” permits (18 free days per year) to encourage and facilitate active commuting efforts.

Hugh passed around a picture of two PRTs that had been painted to look like an old VW bus. The cars were going to be used on the tracks during Earth Week.

VII. Year of Active Transport, May event planning

a. Key Event: Bike to Work Week May 11-15

Hugh said that WVU was planning on asking WVU faculty and staff to ride their bikes; they were planning on placing bike racks in Woodburn Circle to show how many people were riding.

Ilana Chertok asked Hugh to speak with Health Sciences about placing temporary bike racks for workers there.

Jimmie had a concern about misrepresentation of the group through organized activities. Bill said that as long as the board was attempting to change a cultural norm, piggybacking events or lending support did not mean that the group was spearheading events.

b. Appalachian Spring Bicycle Spectacular, May 3

c. Go for the Groceries, May 3

This event is sponsored by Positive Spin and the Green Team. The race will run from Hazel Ruby McQuain Park to the Sabraton Kroger.

VIII. Year of Active Transport, Dominion Post Articles for July, August, September, October

This topic was discussed during the “Review of March Minutes”

IX. Year of Active Transport, Evaluation – survey team update, student project

Bill, Christiaan, Bob, Angela and Dwight had individual meetings about a survey to assess citizens once during 2009 and again in 2010 to see how effective the Year of Active Transport was.

Jimmie suggested comparing political action from 2009 and 2010 to create a baseline assessment.

Kevin Leyden said social marketing campaigns are effective to educate politicians. Politicians do not always see the connection between things like increased walking and decreased air pollution, decreased air pollution and reduced incidences of asthma, reduced asthma and lower health care costs, etc.

Bill asked Kevin to explore creating a baseline for WVU or other businesses in Morgantown – creating a percentage of students, faculty, and staff with parking permits. Analyzing these numbers for 2009 and 2010 could show how successful the campaign was.

Matthew pointed out that decreasing parking revenue could halt support for alternative initiatives.

Kevin pointed out, however, that the cost of building parking lots could still give employees incentives to NOT park. Employees opting out of parking permits would receive a bonus, while those parking in lots would have higher rates. Stanford University, among others, has such a program. The cost of constructing one parking space on the WVU campus ranges from \$2,500 to \$20,000, without the cost of the land.

X. Year of Active Transport, Pedestrian Safety Plan Talking Points and Fact Sheet

Bill brought up several facts that would be useful as talking points. Bill asked for additional talking points to be e-mailed to him to be collected and organized. A deadline was set for Monday April 20th, 2009. It was asked that at least everyone contribute one comment.

XI. Set Time and Date of Next Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board was set for Monday, May 11, 2009 from 4:00-6:00 pm in the Public Safety Building.

XII. Other Items?

Sarah Bias asked for feedback on the two 8.5 x 11 flyers.

Bill Reger-Nash suggested the words Walk, Bike, Bus and PRT be smaller and Morgantown be slightly enlarged. Also, for continuity sake, examine what the logo will look like with “PRT” in lowercase.

It was unanimous that the vertical design be used.

Don Spencer announced that a WV Legislative Bill that would have helped us with sidewalks and parking did not pass.

XIII. Adjournment

The April meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Action Item	Member	Due Date
Support: Bike Trade up Day - April 25; Impact EARTH and Earth Day 5K - April 18; Earth Day Celebration at MHS – April 22; WVU Earth Week -- April 19-25.	EVERYONE	Immediately
Contact Judy Rechert, Walking School Bus	Bill	Next Meeting
Contact Terri Cartright	Angela	Next Meeting
Contact John Lozier and Laura Kemp-Rye	Bill	Next Meeting
Send out active commuter profile questions	Christiaan	End of the week
Coordinate active commuter profiles	Matthew	continuous
Submit talking points to Bill	EVERYONE	Monday, April 20
Develop Talking Points and Facts for Pedestrian Safety Plan and for the Year of Active Transport	Bill	Monday, April 27
Pre-Post Evaluation Design	Kevin	Monday, April 27
Attend Traffic Commission Meet	Christiaan and Angela	May 6, 6:30 PM
Attend next meeting	Everyone	Monday, May 11 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Public Safety Building

Minutes taken by Angela Wiley and Sarah Bias