

Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Building- Morgantown, WV
Monday, November 2, 2009
4:00-6:00 pm

Attendance: Police Chief Phil Scott (pkscott@cityofmorgantown.org – until 5 pm), Christiaan Abildso, Bill Reger-Nash, Jon Bond (until 5 pm), George Lilley, Don Spencer, Matthew Cross, Hugh Kierig, Ilana Chertok (until 4:45 pm), Mike Breiding (mike@epicroadtours.us), Matt Cross, Stan Cohen, Don Spencer, Bob Anderson. See Item V below for additional names.

I. Call to order

Chair Christiaan Abildso called the May meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board to order at 4:02 pm.

II. Attendance Check

Mike Breiding and Chief Scott introduced themselves.

III. Discussion with Chief Scott about pedestrian issues: The Chief has been with the Police Department for 23 years. Chief lives in South Park, walks in South Park, and walks on the rail trail. He certainly sees issues on the trails. Loitering is not against the law. When officers have patrolled the trail, there have been few if any observable problems. The Police Force has been addressing parking issues, and thousands of parking citations have been issued by the Police Force this year. In general, most citations result from citizen complaints. **People are encouraged to call non-emergency number (304-599-6382) for parking complaints.** The most effective means is for citizens to serve as the Police Force “eyes and ears.”

Dr. Stan Cohen commended Chief Scott for the openness and receptiveness of the Police Department. The Pedestrian Safety Board is here to work with the Chief and the Police Force.

On behalf of SPAN (South Park Association of Neighbors) Dr. Cohen expressed concern about parking in the area of Morgantown High School, where students seem to believe that the sidewalk is part of the parking lot. The Chief indicated that this is one major problem area for parking in Morgantown. Suggestion was made to work with Mr. DeSantis. Perhaps, warning can be issued for several months prior to beginning citations.

Additional issues: What can we do to further support the Police Force? Chief emphasized education.

- Issue of Right on Red, as illustrated by Walnut and Spruce Streets. Some right on red has been eliminated.
- Jay Walking: Walkers have responsibilities as well. If the Police Force were to begin citing jay walking this without education of the community, the program probably would experience community push back. If something were to be done,

we would need to implement an extensive, comprehensive, and aggressive social marketing campaign. In addition, we need convenient and viable cross walks to enable safe pedestrian street crossing.

- Parking enforcement: Would be nice if parking meter monitors could issue citations for parking violations.
- A recommendation was made to have a no-tolerance policy toward parking on sidewalks.
- Call the Non emergency number (304-599-6382) to report pedestrian related concerns, such as cars parking on the sidewalks, alcohol consumption, belligerent behavior, etc, Call the Non emergency number (304-599-6382), Call the Non emergency number (304-599-6382).
- **Chief Scott remained and contributed to the discussion until 5 pm.**

IV. Discussion of Pedestrian Safety Plan. Chair Christiaan Abildso reported addressing the issue with the coordinating council. Matt Cross spoke with Suncrest Neighborhood Assn, Christiaan will see Jerome Park this evening.

- Don Spencer indicated that City Council generally receptive to the frontage assessment fee schedule. Perhaps, commercial properties should be assessed at a higher rate given the sidewalks in commercial areas are larger, ie a commercial rate.
- Presenting the plan is difficult. Don Spencer presented a four-page document (pdf attached) useful in presenting the plan to others. Not useful to avoid the financial issue.

V. 5:15 pm Dr. Steve Selin Focus group research conducted by 10 students (Steve Selin, Zach Parsons, David Ramsay, Nick Prusack, Gene Giommitorio, Nick Plucek, Sarah D'Agustin).

VI. Set Time and Date of Next Pedestrian Safety Board Meeting: Monday, December 14, from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Public Safety Building.

VII. Adjournment

The May meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Board was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Action Item	Member	Due Date
Meet with Mayor Byrne, City Manager Dan Boroff, and city councilperson Jenny Selin.	Bill, Don, and Christiaan	Nov 4 at 9:15 am
Send draft Article for Dominion Post to wreger@hsc.wvu.edu	Matt Cross	November 3, 2009
Attend Traffic Commission meeting	Christiaan	November 4, 2009

Send minutes to PSB mail list, Jeff McCorsky, and Roy Nutter	Christiaan	November 3, 2009
Contact Dominion Post about interest on sidewalk parking violations	Bill	ASAP
Observe on sidewalk parking and other ped abuses. Call non-emergency 304-599-6382 to report	All	On going
Attend next meeting	All	Monday, Dec 14, from 4-6 pm at the Public Safety Building

Minutes taken by Bill Reger-Nash