

Bike to the Future

Minutes from Meeting Held Monday October 2nd, 2006
U of W Bullman Centre UWSA board room

Present: Molly McCracken, Alain Foidart, Jackie Avent, Lindsey McBain, Donna Evans, Ken Gerrard, Mark Cohoe, Rob Cosco, Karen Jones, James Allum, Robyn Webb, Ian Mauro, Cory Bellhouse, Howard Skrypuyk, Lori Michaelson, Keith Michaelson

1) Welcome, Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

2) List-serves:

We considered whether or not to combine the Bike to the Future and Winnipeg-City-Bicyclist List-Serves, and what the role of each list-serve should be if they remain separate.

Decision: It was decided that the Bike to the Future list-serve would continue to act as the list-serve for advocacy issues, and that people subscribed onto the Bike to the Future list-serve would be invited to subscribe to the Winnipeg-City-Bicyclist list and vice versa. We should also make it known that if people want to continue Bike to the Future, we will need them to step up and participate.

3) Updates

A) City Updates

i) Marconi Line:

The acquisition of the Marconi Line has been approved by city council. We discussed how the decision on the Marconi line will go ahead.

- It seems like the funding needed to construct the trail will be available.
- \$500,000 came from land acquisition.
- There likely will be room for consultation
- It was suggested that there should be a greenway committee similar to the one created for the Bishop Grandin Greenway.
- We can't allow city hall to sidetrack away from emphasis on commuters
- Should the city have the right to first refusal when abandoned rail lines are sold? This was talked about in the Rapid Transit discussions.

Action: Mark Cohoe to draft a letter re Marconi Line asking for public consultations; what kind of path will be built. [A community consultation has been announced for Wednesday November 15th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Good Neighbours Senior Centre, 755 Henderson Highway]

B) Provincial Updates:

i) September 26, 2006 Provincial News Release

The province announced new infrastructure money mentioned bike routes.

- Does money to the city have strings attached?
- We have a toe in the door through Healthy Living
- In Quebec and Ontario, when money flows, it must be linked to a plan.
- Longer term action can go toward creating provincial policy
- Follow up with a meeting with Healthy Living, other Ministers. Do not wait too long. Get on specifics right away

4) Green Spaces Coalition

Karen Jones spoke on her work with the West Broadway Horticultural group, and their desire to preserve public green spaces in Winnipeg

- In NYC in 2000, the department of housing took over all vacant spaces, leading to the destruction of community gardens. A coalition was formed and took the mayor to court. \$43 million in legal costs ended with a moratorium on the destruction of community gardens. Karen would like to see a coalition formed to advocate for public open spaces. She is part of the West Broadway Horticultural group.
- Money is going towards the maintenance of sites, but land is disappearing. She wants us to consider going out to community centres and talking about the Active Transportation Study. Ask community centres, Rotary Club, etc. for support.
- AT study is backbone of public spaces in Winnipeg.
- Land Dedication Reserve is a potential tool for the creation of trails.
- Her group would like to amend the Land Dedication Reserve in Winnipeg

5) Strategies

A) What Do We Want?

i) Priorities

Decided Priorities as Follows:

- AT Study
- % Dedicated Funding
- Emphasize Commuting

B) How Much Money for Bicycle Pathways?

- What percentage do other cities allocate? How do other cities decide on this?
- 3% of people commuting to work by bike is a measure of what we have now, and does not include potential future growth
- 2.8% is used by Resource Conservation MB
- 2.8% is bicycle only, not pedestrian. If we do not get a commitment to a percentage of resources going to cycling, the amount allocated will get split up, and the needs of cyclists will be pitted against pedestrian/other users needs.
- Which committees decide infrastructure?

C) Getting Commitment from Councilors and Mayor

i) Questionnaire

- Go with MCA on promotion.
- We will have to set up grade levels.
- Probably best to go with 4-5 questions with a press release.
- In preamble, respect the full spectrum of cyclists
- How does the advisory committee work, their should be accountability to the community
- Budgeted expenditures must be for things we want.
- As part of our message, we should illustrate what 3% would get us, or what \$1 Million would get us. This could be similar to the Alternative Budget

Priorities for Questionnaire:

- Hire Coordinator
- Form Committee
- Emphasize Commuter Lanes
- 2.8% dedicated Funding

Action: A subcommittee for a candidate questionnaire was formed. Members are Jackie Avent, Ian Mauro, Molly McCracken, Rob Cosco, Mark Cohoe, Kevin Miller, Susane Klueppel, Jeremy Hull.

ii) Mayoral Forums

- Should we appoint people to ask questions at mayoral debates?
- Which debates will Katz be participating in?

Notice of Forum Dates (For Information Only, Not Discussed)

The Free Press has reported that Sam Katz will be attending in three media sponsored events; talk radio CJOB, Red River College Radio, and Global's debate as well as the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce/Winnipeg Real Estate Board debate. Dates for other forums (but not necessarily all mayoral debates) as taken from Marrienne Cerilli's web page are listed below.

Oct. 11 (12:30-1:30 PM): Mayoral Forum - Eckhardt Gramatte Hall, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue (sponsored by student associations at Red River College, College St. Boniface, University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg)

Oct. 11 (8:00-9:00 PM) Mayoral Forum, William Whyte School (Council candidates will be speaking at 7:00) 200 Powers St (at Manitoba Avenue)

Oct. 12 (11:30-1:30 PM) Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Forum at Fort Garry Hotel, 222 Broadway Admission: Members: \$33; Others: \$50

Oct. 16 (7:30 PM) Civic Issues Panel (sponsored by United Jewish People's Order) 1588 Main Street

Oct. 16 (8:00 PM) - Spence Neighborhood Forum - Ellice Theatre, 587 Ellice (at Sherbrook) - Council candidates speak at 7, mayoral candidates at 8:00

Oct. 17 (5:30-7:30 PM) - Community Forum sponsored by Manitoba League of Persons With Disabilities and Association for Community Living - Westminster United Church (Maryland Street and Westminster Avenue)

Oct. 19 (7:30-8:30 PM) - Community-Based Mayoralty Forum (many sponsors) Eckhardt Gramatte Hall, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue

iii) Other Ideas for Councilors/Mayor

- RCM Idea → Have a bike safety workshop with all candidates, followed by a ride.
- Mark Lubosh is involved as councilor on bike issues.
- We need 9 votes
- There was never any presentation given to council from a cycling advocacy group. We need to make sure we are making presentations at the appropriate committees.
- We could develop a set of questions people could ask candidates at the door.

6) Keeping on the radar screen

The idea of a media cycle was discussed.

There will be public hearings on zoning bylaws coming up after the election in the fall.

Police relations with cyclists have to improve. 7pm Thursday there will be a speaker on police oversight.

Work with provincial resolutions

Action: A 2nd sub-committee was formed for Media attention. Members are Ian Mauro, Molly McCracken, Alain Foidart, Robyn Webb, Lindsey McBain

7) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday October 10th, 5:30 pm, in the MB Eco Centre Board Room. The Eco-Centre is on the 3rd Floor of 303 Portage Avenue (MEC Building). Access is either by elevator through the MEC lobby (no need to go through the store), or for the more physically inclined - up the stairs through the glass door off of Portage to the right of the MEC main entrance.

A) Media Clips from Delivery of Bike to the Future Report

Ian Mauro showed media reports on the release of the Bike to the Future report. Global gave extensive coverage, CTV gave a summary coverage.

8) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.