

BW Advocacy committee meeting April 2 2014

In attendance: Ian Walker, Mark Cohoe, Guy Bonnetta, & Charles Feaver

We reviewed the various submissions Mark put together in the past month, and discussed ways of maximizing the impact of his work by contacting councillors directly and drawing attention to these issues to cyclists who live in those areas in the BW newsletter.

We asked Mark how we could help him. Mark mentioned that the only way to find out about a lot of City projects is to notice them in various routine documents. Many of them are not well publicized. Ian will help by combing through the City budget to identify construction projects that should include AT provisions. Mark has to do a lot of writing. Charles offered to help edit documents, and do writing for public consumption. Mark also asked us to help him network to people in a position to promote various projects.

We discussed the June 16<sup>th</sup> "BW Priorities Workshop". This is a big and important project. We need good promotion to get a good turnout. We will structure the facilitation process to identify leaders in different neighbourhoods, to initiate the development of Bicycle User Groups in each Community Committee area of the City.

The city has not appointed a representative of Bike Winnipeg on their AT advisory committee, so Charles will approach one of the sitting members to become part of the BW Advocacy committee.

The provincial AT committee has met twice, Mark is a member. That committee seems to be dealing with administrative matters, such as mapping existing facilities in the Province. It is not generating bold new plans....

We noted that no minister is currently identified as responsible for Active Transportation. The AT staff person is in Municipal Affairs, under Stan Struthers, but Kevin Chief is the Minister responsible for Winnipeg.

Charles reported on the slow progress following up on the PUB recommendations to the Government. Charles drafted a letter to be sent as joint letter from CAA, CAC and BW to ministers asking them to convene a stakeholders' meeting to discuss Road Safety strategic planning identify a lead agency for road safety. Our partners were very slow to respond. Following a teleconference, CAA took the lead in revising the letter, and we are still waiting for that letter. [Liz Peters subsequently promised to circulate a proposed letter by April 4.]

We noted that the "Shovel-in" had been successful as an event, but there is no evidence that the City is thinking about doing a better job next year. Ian volunteered to monitor discussions within the City on snow clearing policy.

For the 2014 Advocacy campaign, we need something that will get government leaders to focus on the main issue; making Winnipeg & Manitoba safer for cyclists. We propose to ask all government agencies to set the goal of Zero Cyclist fatalities in 2014. This is a grim goal, because it mentions "fatality", but it is achievable, no government agency could disagree with it, and it requires immediate action to improve safety. We propose to socialize the idea with the most sympathetic leaders first, and get their advice on how to win over the less sympathetic. We need board approval to proceed.