

STARKVILLE IN MOTION MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2009

PLEASE COME TO THE JANUARY 20TH BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
(5:30, CITY HALL) FOR 3 LYNN LANE/SIM RELATED EVENTS!!

Lynn Lane: We hope that the remaining city match will be funded as a portion of the road bond issue. This will be addressed at the Board of Aldermen meeting on Tuesday January 20 at 5:30 PM at City Hall. Please attend if you can! A Wildlife and Fisheries Recreational Trails grant that would make up at least a portion of the match is being written now. The education and outreach design team winners will be presented with their checks at the January 20th Board of Aldermen meeting as well, a great chance to celebrate their work and SIM. Soon, we hope, some of their outreach and education plans will be enacted.

Cotton Mill Market Place: John Poros of the Carl Small Town Center came to talk with Starkville in Motion about the most current plans for the Cotton Mill Market Place at the corner of 12 and Russell Streets. Currently he developers are still seeking financing. He was seeking our input about SIM's greatest wishes and concerns about the project. Some concerns include: connections from the West side of the project to downtown, connection to campus at Russell Street, the Spring Street HWY 12 intersection, the design of Russell Street, and overall parking and appearance. SIM firmly believes that all intersections need to be both bikeable and walkable and that sidewalks be designed to connect people from place to place (in other words, a bike lane or sidewalk that takes people way out of the way, in a loop around the edge of campus rather than right to the heart of campus, for example, may not get much use or benefit the project.) In addition, we encourage the developers to design in ways that invite pedestrian and bike traffic, such as putting storefronts at the edge of the roadway/sidewalk rather than surrounding the development with acres of unfriendly concrete parking. We appreciate the opportunity to have some input and will continue to collaborate with the Small Town Center and the developer. Chris Campany is our designated representative. In the future there will be open meetings and hearings about zoning and design, and it will be important that many of us attend those events.

Treasurer's Report: \$2408 in the bank, some of that committed to the Arts Walk brochure.

Membership Drive: SIM memberships renew every January, no matter when you first become a member, January's the time to renew (unless, of course, you're a lifetime member already). Of the 153 people on our mailing list, only 25 are currently paid. And the mailing list doesn't include many of our email-list only members. Membership is our only real fund raiser, and your membership makes our projects possible. In addition, a large paid membership demonstrates to our city leaders and others that these are issues that really matter to the community. If SIM has your mailing address, you've probably already gotten our membership-reminder post card. Please send it in with your membership fee. If we don't have your address, but you'd like a post card, then you can

email me at devon@ra.msstate.edu and we'll get you one. Or you can go to our website, starkvilleinmotion.org, and download the printable membership form there.

Frostbite Marathon Water Station: Matt Cox is organizing a water station at the Frostbite Half Marathon this Saturday the 24th.

Wheel-a-thon Update: Parks and Recreation will be using money raised in the Wheel-a-Thon to install a 4-seat swing set at McKee park. It has been ordered and will be installed soon!

Bike Friendly Communities Workshop: About 12 people attended the workshop. Those attending learned some valuable tips and some good information about what makes a community bike friendly. We are encouraged to apply for Bike Friendly Certification through the Bike League of America. Going through that process might help us identify strengths and future projects in our community. Applications can be submitted in August or March. Currently, the only city in our state that has achieved recognition for being a bike friendly community is Oxford, which has achieved bronze level recognition. If anyone is interested in working on this, please contact Devon at devon@ra.msstate.edu. For more information visit <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/communities/>

Public Policy Master's Capstone Projects: Two graduate students in public policy are interested in working with SIM for their capstone projects. Joe Fratesi will work with them to identify good projects such as grant applications or perhaps completing the Bike Friendly Communities application.

Multicultural Lions Club: Chris Cospers continues to work with this group to develop a brochure for new international students about biking and walking safety in Starkville. This will be shared with new international students in the fall.

Boy Scout Event: A boy scout leader has approached SIM for help with bike safety event. Charlotte, Kate, Jan, and Lois have all responded as being willing to help. Watch for opportunities to talk about biking with young members of our community.

Sidewalk Committee: The top ten priorities document has been completed. Jim and Jeremy will work with Robbie Ward to publicize these concerns in venues other than the Starkville Daily News.

Shovel-ready Projects that Could be Included in Stimulus Package. Communities are preparing lists of ready-to-go projects that could be included in any federal stimulus package the new administration proposes. As part of this, Devon worked with the Bike League of America to develop a list of shovel-ready projects in and around Starkville relating to infrastructure to support biking and walking.

Among those included in the list are all of the top ten sidewalk priorities, which already have descriptions and cost estimates, and the remaining un-funded portion of our Safe

Routes to School proposal. The Commercial Dispatch published an article about the list of shovel ready projects.

http://www.cdipatch.com/articles/2009/01/19/local_news/starkville/starkville01.txt

Arts Walk: The date of April 25th has been set for a kick-off event for our Arts Walk brochure. The brochure is map of downtown and connecting neighborhoods listing businesses and other public spaces that display or create art. The kick-off event will be a celebration of both walking and community arts. Kathy Jacobs is organizing, and she will need several volunteers the day of the kick-off event. Everyone should save the date—either to walk, partake of the free music and other exhibits planned for the day, or to volunteer. (Or join us for all 3!)

Safe Routes to School: Adrian and Lois have been working diligently. Data on how kids get to school has been gathered and is being tallied. Parent surveys are being collected. Adrian's exploring ways to begin Walking School Bus type projects including working with campus volunteers and/or athletes to walk to school with students. School education sessions are being planned. This committee needs some committed members. Please watch for an announcement of a committee meeting and attend if at all possible.