

SIM Minutes October 13, 2008

Lynn Lane

- Crisis: The Transportation Enhancement Act grant funding for projects like Lynn Lane requires a 20% community match. In spite of clear working in the RFP, grant proposal, and on the US DOT website indicating that local municipalities could use in-kind services such as the time of a city engineer and the value of right-of-way land to make that match, the rules seem to have changed and the city has been told that it can no-longer use in-kind funds for the match and must use cash. Other cities around the state are also grappling with this change in procedure. The city does not have the entire \$300,000 that would constitute our match. However, the city also recognizes that investing some money might yield a huge return to the tune of 1.2 million dollars. The Lynn Lane Committee continues to work with the city aldermen, university officials, and others in the community. Possible responses include: negotiating with MDOT and better clarification of the rules, collaborating with the university, possible additional grant funding (Hamp Beatty may have identified a small grant we can apply for) and possible fundraisers such as a buy-a-brick/sidewalk imprint/sign/name on a sign campaign.
- Contact your Aldermen: It is important that our aldermen understand the importance of the Lynn Lane project for city growth, for safety, for recreation, and for transportation. If you haven't yet, contact your Aldermen or all the aldermen and say something like "The Lynn Lane Multipurpose Path is important to the city and I hope you will do everything in your power to support it." If you would help with a fundraising campaign, email Devon at dgb19@msstate.edu.
- Education Campaign: In spite of the brouhaha, an education campaign coordinator has been hired. Melissa Lockett is working with the city and with students in landscape architecture and PR to develop proposals for an education campaign competition. Campaigns are to be judged in mid November and the winning design will be produced, including TV, radio and print materials.

Treasurer's Report

151 paid members, \$2,188 in treasury, \$1,000 of that committed to the Arts Walking Tour

Trail Riding at Noxubee Crest

A beginner's ride will be held at the Noxubee Crest trail system on November 2nd at 1:30 PM. This will be a gentle ride and an introduction to the trail system, and will begin at the Choctaw Lake Trailhead. If you go ride out at Noxubee Crest, remember to wear blaze orange, it is hunting season. On Nov 22 there will be a trail-maintenance workshop hosted by the International Mountain Bike Association. This weekend will include training in how to maintain and establish trails, a social ride, and much more. Watch for additional emails or contact Charlotte at cfuquay@hotmail.com to get involved.

T-Shirts

We have white t-shirts with the SIM logo in several sizes. If you'd like one, attend a SIM event or email Devon. \$10.00 apiece.

Wheel-A-Thon

Over 70 families attended, we raised about \$800 dollars. Kate will consult with Clark Roman of Parks and Rec regarding the use of this money for park improvements. This was a terrific event—all families who attended enjoyed themselves, there was face painting, a jumping inflatable, crafts, races, and perfect weather. Thanks Kate for organizing and for creating this link with 52 Moms.

Sidewalk Committee

Articles on the Top Ten sidewalk priorities continue to run in the Starkville Daily News. The sidewalk committee will meet Wednesday October 22 at 12:15 PM at City Bagel. As a side note, new curb cuts have been installed on sidewalks on Jackson Street north of 182.

Safe Routes to School

Adrienne Morris has been hired to coordinate the outreach and education campaign of SRTS and will be organizing a fall Walk to School event, and leading efforts to evaluate existing infrastructure and walk-to-school practices using surveys and other data collection methods required in the grant. Engineering is underway for the infrastructure components along Whitfield (including finishing the sidewalk and bike lanes) and from Rolling Hills to the campus on the Hill. Construction should be begin in the spring.

Day One

Day One students are going to be performing bike and walking safety skits at Overstreet School this week. They are also working on a bike safety campaign and will be working with SRTS.

GDSP meeting

Ron and Jimmy met with the new Greater Starkville Development Partnership leader, John Maynard. Mr. Maynard is supportive of SIM's work, is making plans to attend a meeting, understands the value of bike lanes and sidewalks for community growth, and may help us respond to the Lynn Lane crisis.

Bike Walk Mississippi

Bike Walk Mississippi seeks a board member from the Northeast Region. This is the first state-wide advocacy group for biking and walking. If anyone is interested in serving on the Board of this group and attending their twice-annual meetings, contact Devon. SIM approved allocating travel funds to attend Bike Walk Mississippi meetings, to reimburse actual mileage expenses and possibly all or a portion of hotel expenses on a case-by-case basis depending on the location of the meeting.

Leadership Team

No nominations from the floor were made for any leadership positions. Voting will take place in November.

Our suggestions on great places to walk continue to appear periodically in the Starkville Daily News. Thanks Gwen Sisson.