

Minutes for the October SIM Meeting

13 people were present

SIM has more than 100 members, 40 have renewed in 2006. Don't forget to renew every year!

We have just over \$800 in the account.

Lynn Lane: We still don't know the outcome of our grant proposal. Sometime this week.

Rails to Trails: Chris will be talking with Johnny Arnold of the TAG group which is developing the old Borden Plant to keep abreast of any changes in/developments with the rail line through town.

University Drive and the Catholic Church: Some conversation between SIM and church members has happened, however, not enough to reach a compromise and we seem to still be at an impasse. Patrik is continuing to talk with Aldermen and church members around this issue, including a video tape of the road and traffic patterns when vehicles are parked in the bike lane. There is much public support for the bike lane. On October 4th, Patrik, Charlotte, and Randall counted bicycle traffic on the University Drive bike lanes. Since our last count, there's been a significant increase in use of the bike lane. Charlotte counted 208 cyclists in March from 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM. We counted 372 cyclists for the same time period yesterday. From 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM we had 419 cyclists! Only 10% were wearing helmets, suggesting that many of the bike lane users are novice riders. Patrik talked to a few student cyclists and they "definitely feel safer" with dedicated bicycle lanes. They get to class much faster on bike than in their cars. (A police officer came by and had a word with Patrik after a resident of a nearby apartment complex reported that someone was sitting in a parked car all day :))

Education and Outreach: Has met recently and made some beginning plans. Soon, this committee may have charge of some funds for education related to the Lynn Lane project. Committee is working on recruitment and supporting Safe Routes to School. It also has new members. Thanks, new members.

Safe Routes to School: Lois and Ron have been working with the schools on a survey (or is it a canvass, not a survey?) about how students get back and forth to several schools. Results are coming in slowly. Landscape Architecture has helped the committee map where at least 70% of students live in relation to schools (we need to show how many live within 2 miles of each school). The database has some unmap-able addresses, but the 70% we could map is enough, we decided, to serve our needs for the grant. Some deciding about and measuring of the proposed route will need to be done soon. Bill Webb and the city will have to help us develop cost estimates. Watch for more details and a meeting soon, and an announcement of a public meeting and/or a request to

attend a meeting of the Board of Aldermen when they vote to collaborate with us on this grant.

Share the Road License Plates: 15 SIM members are interested in preorders. We need 25 pre orders to help Bike/Walk Mississippi reach their goal of 200 and to use this project as a fundraiser. Remember that if the state gets 200 preorders for "share the road" license plates, they will begin production. It costs 31 dollars more to get these specialty plates, and 25 of that would be returned to Bike Walk Mississippi for its advocacy efforts. If you're interested in a plate, email Devon and let her know. We've asked Bulldawg Cycling how many of those are interested. Devon will keep us posted on developments.

Bike Racks: Robert is still working on this. The High School has a new rack. If there are other places in town or on campus that need racks, email devon at devon@ra.msstate.edu and we'll pass the word along to the right folks.

Nacho Stand: Chris Cospers is wondering if we might be interested in committing to a concession/nacho stand at the Humphrey Colliseum for a fundraiser. He's finding out the extent of this commitment. Devon suggested that folks might be more willing to volunteer to raise money for a specific project (e.g. a particular path or sidewalk) rather than just the SIM general fund. If we get the nacho stand we'll need 4 workers at every basketball games and some other fall events. Watch for more on this issue.