

MINUTES

Starkville in Motion
November 13, 2006

NOTE: We will NOT have a formal meeting in December, but watch for updates, announcements, etc.

1. University Drive Update

Patrik, Charlotte, Ron, and others spoke on behalf of the University Drive Bike Lane at the most recent Board of Aldermen meeting during the public comment segment of the meeting. Austin Vollar had been scheduled to speak and was expected to ask the Board to vote on the exception to allow Sunday Parking in the bike lane. However, he was unable to attend and cancelled his appearance prior to the meeting. SIM decided to appear and speak during public comment time anyway, to express our concerns. Ben Bounds of the Starkville Daily News reported on this, however, his article was full of inaccuracies. Charlotte has written a letter and met with Mr. Bounds and he's promised to fix it, however, the Sunday correction in the SDN did not address misrepresentation of SIM.

SIM needs to be prepared to attend and speak for the bike lane again if it appears that this issue is on the agenda at the next Aldermen meeting (next Tuesday). Devon and Patrik will meet to prepare a PowerPoint and information to share with the Board if needed.

2. Elections

The slate of officers was unanimously elected and includes:

Jimmy Richardson, President
Joe Fratesi, Vice President
Devon Brenner Secretary
Charlotte Fuquay, Treasurer
Kathy Jacobs, Outreach officer and chair of Outreach Committee
Patrik Nordin-Board
Ron Cossman-Board and chair of Lynn Lane
Grant Kirker-Board
Matt Cox-Board
Lois Connington-chair, Safe Routes to School
Randall McMillen-chair, Sidewalk Committee
Robert McMillen-chair of Bike Rack Committee

3, Upcoming projects:

Hospital Road should probably be our next big priority after Safe Routes to School. SRS will help make part of Hospital Road safer, but it's also a big project for all of us. This will need some real leadership--anyone out there passionate about Hospital Road? Come help us organize in January. The roads around the research park are wide and smooth now, and have been turned over to the city, and at a recent Power Breakfast, Colin Scanes mentioned that perhaps there should be sidewalks/bike lanes out there. Jimmy will talk with Scanes about what he meant, and look into this. This is another priority for the beginning of next year. Lots of folks already use both the paved roads and trails at the research park for recreation and fitness.

4. Lynn Lane

The MDOT committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. We are waiting to hear and could hear after any one of these Tuesday meetings. Keep your fingers crossed. If we get the grant there will be lots of work to do. (Noting a theme yet--lots of opportunities for members beginning in January.)

5. Safe Routes to School

The deadline's been pushed from Dec 1 to March 1 giving us more time to plan and write. Lois and the committee had a meeting last week and fleshed out more of the potential route--even walked some of the potential route--it looks quite possible to extend from the back of the Hill complex to the north through the very small wooded area, connecting to Plantation Homes and Critz, etc.. Mapping's been done by Wayne Wilkerson to determine where kids live relative to Armstrong and the Ward/Stewart/Henderson complex--necessary for the grant application. Dr. Fuller from Armstrong, Dr. Burkes, principal at Henderson, and the rest of the committee met at the end of today's meeting to keep making progress and developing the route and its costs. Cookie Leflore, from MDOT, is coordinating this grant, and she wants to visit Starkville to see our plans and our needs, sometime before Christmas. Watch for more info!

6. Outreach Committee

Helping SRS, working on a poster advertising SIM and what we do, a press release is ready to go when we hear good news about Lynn Lane. Public Service announcements on radio and TV would be helpful. Randall will circulate a list of radio stations and contacts. JW will look into drafting or locating some stock PSAs around issues of pedestrian and bike safety, to be "sponsored by" SIM.

7. Treasurer's report:

Nearly \$950 in the account, nearly 100 member son paper, more on our email list. Become a member and/or renew. (see our website www.starkvilleinmotion.org) for the membership form and address. Encourage friends etc. to become members--having a wide membership, even of folks who aren't involved, allows us to say to politicians: SIM represents XXXX people. Membership isn't only about money, it's about showing how important these issues are to our community.

8. Sidewalk Committee

Whitney decided to resign as co-chair of this committee and dedicate her efforts to the city's sidewalk commission. The city is beginning to spend its allocated \$50,000 allocated to sidewalk repair--in front of Deas Engineering and the Presbyterian Church. These repairs will allow for a smooth, connected route from downtown to campus all along the north side of University Drive.