

**Minutes  
Starkville in Motion  
December 14, 2004**

Attendance: Jimmy Richardson, Matt Cox, Kathy Jacobs, Libby Gill, Jerry Gill, Edward Kemp, Gunnar Olson, Tommy Cobb, Judy Housley, Billy Doughty, Robert McMillen, Randall McMillen, Devon Brenner, Chris Cosper, Charlotte Fuquay

Introduction of Leadership Team:

- President: Chris Cosper
- Vice President: Jimmy Richardson
- Treasurer: Charlotte Fuquay
- Secretary: Devon Brenner
- Publicity: Kathy Jacobs
- Chair – Safe Routes to Schools: Lois Connington
- At-Large Board: Josh Atchley, Matt Cox, Billy Doughty (unless any of you object)

Noxubee Crest: Charlotte Fuquay shared information about the Noxubee Crest Trails in the Tombigbee National Forest.

- 26 miles of trails with trailheads at the Choctaw Lake recreation area and at Noxubee Hill Cemetery (the cemetery trailhead is unimproved—no water or restrooms). Maps available at the Bicycle Shop in Starkville.
- Trails were the brainchild of the National Forest Ranger, who took care of the governmental red tape.
- Excellent trail system with maps, markers, and trail signs. Trails range from single track to low-traffic forest and county roads.
- Trails were primarily constructed by volunteers including Charlotte, Hugh Ector, Mike Murphy, and others. The Park Service built bridges over creeks and the trail head at Choctaw Lake. Trails continue to be maintained by volunteers. Volunteers are still needed to help including posting stop signs at intersections with roads, naming the trail segments, and trail maintenance—especially after storms. Contact Charlotte at cfuquay@hotmail.com
- We are encouraged to use the trails in all seasons—the more we use them, especially in the summer, the fewer weeds there are to control! However, if you use the trails during hunting season, be sure to wear a wide swatch of BLAZE ORANGE to make you visible.
- Gunnar is working on mapping the trails more completely than current maps.
- Those present who had ridden the trails concurred—these trails are awesome! A great accomplishment!

Technical Assistance

- We have won technical assistance (but not money) from the National Park Service (1 of 14 communities in the Southeast). We will announce soon as part of PR.

### Input on the Comprehensive Plan

- Leadership team members met with Shelly Johnston to talk about the Comprehensive Plan. She was receptive. Two big areas of the plan to influence are Zoning and Ordinances (sidewalks in subdivisions, etc.) and The Transportation Plan. The Transportation Plan reserves space for roads and forecasts city growth.
  - Plan of action:
    - Share our priorities/goals with Shelly, including a map—**Matt and Chris will do this.**
    - Respond to drafts of the Plan: The Comprehensive Plan will be released in or around February. We will need people to carefully read the plan, respond to it, attend public forums etc. Watch for invitations to help!
- Questions to keep in mind as we review the Plan:
- General attitude toward paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.
  - Is accessibility (i.e. curb cuts and wheelchair access) a part of the comprehensive plan?
  - Do contractors HAVE to replace sidewalks they tear up during construction?
  - Can contractors be required to disrupt sidewalks as little as possible?
  - Design of curb cuts and driveways—making sure that bike and foot traffic are accessible
  - Sidewalk/trail connections between subdivisions—can they be mandated? Built?

### Research and Technology Park Bike Paths

Change of leadership at the Park may mean this is an opportune time to talk about preserving the biking/hiking paths there. **Chris** will find out more and follow up with OCEDA who owns the land.

### Prioritization of Projects:

Attendees rated several projects' priority level. Chris will share results of those ratings at the next meeting. New information and brainstormed ideas about projects were shared:

- Repainting/sidewalks on Hospital Lane: This may be an opportune time to talk because of construction and they'll be digging up to replace sewer lines there. **Kathy** will follow up on the city's plan. This may be a highly visible project. Many people who live in that area might be supportive.
- Lynn Lane: Connecting the Sportsplex and park may be a manageable project. Need for bike paths there. Parks and Rec has indicated willingness to create a bike path and/or walking trail at the SportsPlex. If director retires, we should approach new director.
- HWY 82. Needs to be done. May be a big project. Involves a lot of schools. Reach out to club owners? Connect to low income neighborhoods and King park?
- Safe Routes to School: Possible source of funding, federal money. Once we have a total plan can turn to them. Lois will continue to learn more, reach out to Mr.

- Fuller and Mr. Rush (transportation director) of the school system. This is also a health/wellness issue.
- Russell Street: Needs to be repainted. Add a bike lane? Connect to Col. Muldrow and other access to the bike paths on campus/University Drive??
  - South Montgomery: Connecting neighborhoods to each other, connecting to South Farm/MSU. May provide access to schools (Academy, high school).

Membership Drive:

Need to have a membership drive. Documenting a large number of members gives us clout. **Kathy** will work on a membership form/brochure and other flyers/business cards to share with community members. **All members** should plan on reaching out to groups, churches, organizations, friends, etc. in January. **Kathy (and Devon)** will work on a website.