

Starkville in Motion Minutes February 9, 2009

Treasurer's Report

- \$2900 in account, \$1000 committed to the Arts Walking Tour
- 80 membership cards were sent out, resulting in 12 renewed paid memberships. These cards also advertised our 08 accomplishments

New Time/Next Meeting

- We voted to start our meetings at 5:30, an hour earlier than before. Our next meeting will be Monday March 9th at 5:30 PM at the Bost Extension Center, Building B. We'll hear a presentation from the MSCAT office on it's first impressions of Starkville project.

Grant Writing Class

- MSU's continuing education is offering a six week grant writing for non-profits class. The tuition is \$125 people. SIM is considering supporting the tuition for someone who would be interested in taking the class, with the promise of writing at least one grant proposal for SIM based on what you learn. Email Devon by the end of February if you're interested, and we'll select one person from those who would like to take the class. devon@ra.msstate.edu

Safe Routes to School

- Walk to School day will coincide with Earth Day, Wednesday April 22nd. We will need volunteers. Contact Lois at iconnington@yahoo.com.
- March 7th will be a bike rodeo with many local boy scouts. We will need volunteers. More info will be forth coming, or email Lois to help, iconnington@yahoo.com
- Through SRTS and an MDE collaboration, local individuals can become Bike League Certified Instructors of bike safety. The \$200 tuition will be waived for folks who agree to do bike safety trainings/educational programs at SRTS schools (like the Starkville schools) and could conceivably do such programs for other groups as well. The class lasts 3 days—a Friday evening and 2 weekend days, probably. Contact Lois if you're interested.
- Our summer camp will be held in 2010.
- We hope to break ground this summer for the infrastructure part of the grant.

Lynn Lane Update

- Thanks to the road bond's passage, we believe that funding is now available for the city's match for the Lynn Lane project, and this work will begin slowly moving through the engineering process.

Arts Walk Kick Off

- The map is nearly done for the Arts Walking Tour Brochure—a map of places with public art in and near downtown. Kathy will see if the Starkville City Jail (a Johnny Cash related spot) can be added.
- The Kick-Off event will be Saturday April 25th from 10-2. This is a collaboration with Cre8tive Warehouse, Starkville Central Neighborhood Foundation, and the Starkville Area Arts Council. Artists, live music, and other cool things will be featured that day. Kathy will need 6 volunteers to help with set up, delivering easels, responding to day-of issues, etc. Email her at kathy@kathyjacobs.com

Sidewalk Committee

- The sidewalk committee has been working with Aldermen to promote the proposal of a sidewalk ordinance. There seems to be consensus around beginning with an ordinance requiring sidewalks to be part of new construction, particularly in new subdivisions. This does not quite reach our goal of laws promoting complete streets all around, but is a step in the right direction. If such an ordinance is proposed, it will be important that we show up to support it in large numbers.
- Currently the city is spending \$50,000 a year to make sidewalks compliant with ADA/more accessible, and MDOT is doing the same with some of the streets that are their responsibility.
- The committee will soon put in a media blitz around our top ten priorities to help promote awareness of why sidewalks are important and needed

Cotton Mill Market Place

- Chris Campany reported on updates of conversations with John Poros of the Carl Small Town Center, who is working with the developers on the transportation/connection/pedestrian and bike access aspects of the development, though not the actual site plan. The CSTC is working with the developers and MDE on ways to handle the Russell Street entrance to campus as well as all the other major intersections, walkability, etc. Bike lanes and sidewalks are part of the overall plan, including a bike lane along Russell which should connect campus to downtown. There will be public meetings to attend about both the design of the buildings and the transportation linkages. SIM will need to continue to have positive involvement to influence this publicly-funded project. Watch for more.
- Chris also recently presented to the Garden Club about design of public spaces to build community and be bike/walking friendly. He may give such a presentation to SIM.

Frostbite Half-Marathon Water Stop

- A handful of SIM members hosted the very best, funnest, most enthusiastic water stop at the Frostbite Half-Marathon and won \$100.00 from Boardtown Bikes. Thanks Matt Cox for organizing and Boardtown Bikes for the prize.

Capstone Projects

- Two grad students doing their capstone projects are working to identify grants to build some of our priority projects, and then will complete those grant applications.
- Watch for a presentation by these folks in the late spring on their accomplishments.

MSU ECO

- Devon's been invited to be a member of the transportation committee of the MSU ECO office (Environmental Collaboration Office), which is working to make campus more sustainable.

SIM 5 Year Plan

Because SIM is 5 years old, and because we've been asked our long term goals, we brainstormed for a while about some of our long term goals, a first step in developing a long term plan. Below are the results of our brainstorm--including both infrastructure we'd like to see and other goals/objectives. We will discuss the 5 year plan more at the next meeting, including setting priorities. If you would like to see anything else added to the list feel free to email me at devon@ra.msstate.edu

Tentative—First Draft/Brainstorm--5 year plan

Overall goals:

- To connect all the parts of the city and campus together with an interconnected network of sidewalks and bike lanes/roads safe for biking
- To promote recreation, community building, commerce, commuting, physical fitness and eco-friendly options for transportation by promoting infrastructure and education/awareness.
- To have educational and community events that support walking and biking and educate others about biking/walking needs, safety, benefits, etc.--to create a culture that accepts and values biking and walking.

Infrastructure Priorities: Immediate and Long Term Goals

- Finish Lynn Lane
- Phase 2 of Safe Routes to School—connecting all schools to local neighborhoods to promote walking/biking to school

- Cotton Mill Market Place and connectors to campus, Main Street, and Spring Street
- Top Ten Sidewalk Priorities:
 - Jackson Street-finish and make accessible
 - HWY 12 to Louisville
 - HWY 12/Spring Street intersection and entrance to campus
 - HWY 182—Old West Point Rd to Long St
 - Critz Street and entrances to McKee Park
 - Research Park (bike lane/striping)
 - Lee Blvd all the way to the MS HWY Patrol
 - Sidewalks along Reed Road
 - Hospital Road
 - McKee Park complete the loop
- Connect the Vet School to the Sports Plex to campus—all over the south side/south entrance
- Connect 21 apartments to campus
- Connect Ocktoc Road all the way to the Refuge with a bike lane and/or signage
- Make sure bike lanes and sidewalks are included in any newly built south entrance to MSU
- Rails to Trails—along the old railroad bed from MSU to Artesia
- Old Mayhew Road

Other SIM Priorities

- A complete streets ordinance—a law recognizing that all users of roads—walkers, bike riders and car drivers—are tax payers, and roads should meet the needs of all users, and that as roads are built or improved, they should include bike lanes and sidewalks whenever feasible
- Increase student/campus/community involvement in SIM—and collaborate with students/courses on campus to complete projects
- Increase diversity in membership
- Support the city, community, and university in the development of a comprehensive pedestrian/cycling/parks and recreation plan
- Shuttles/public transportation
- Continue to increase the number of bike racks around town and on campus
- Collaborate with Bike/Walk Mississippi on projects
- Continue/grow education and outreach activities