

Minutes of the SIM Meeting
March 19, 2007

Safe Routes to School

The grant has been submitted!!! Ron, Lois, and Gunnar, along with their team, finished this effort. We asked for \$749,000, including 29% of money for education and encouragement. The education and encouragement component will include funding Health Promotion graduate students to work with each of the schools grades 3-7. The rest of the money will be for signage and improvements to the built environment. MDOT will have staff review of apps for the next 60 days and then MDOT commissioners will review. More info soon. We presented a lovely plaque to Lois to thank her for her hard work on SRTS.

Lynne Lane

The board of aldermen signed the official MDOT agreement letter at the most recent aldermen meeting. We are on track and engineering is next. It's not too soon to begin thinking of planning a groundbreaking ceremony, for, perhaps, this fall.

Presentation from Health Promotion

Mike Hall, professor from the college of food science, nutrition, and health promotion, spoke to the group. Because we are entering into partnerships with these faculty (e.g. the education component of safe routes to school and perhaps some other evaluative activities) we needed to learn a little more about this program. The Health Promotion program works with individuals, schools, communities, worksites, and others to help promote healthy lifestyles. They see health as multidimensional, relating to the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual. They understand that lifestyle choices are the biggest factor that influences health. They offer a master's degree in health promotion.

Becoming a Non-Profit and Changes to By-Laws

Our 1023 application is in the mail, this is the second of 5 steps to becoming a non-profit. This is a tedious but important process as it allows us to avoid paying corporate taxes, allows people to make tax-free donations to SIM (bring 'em on!) and allows us to make tax-free purchases. In order to complete the 1023, we had to have some specific language and provisions in our by-laws--e.g. a conflict of interest and dissolution policy. Check the website soon for more info, and expect a by-laws ratification at an up-coming meeting.

Lifetime Membership

All supporters are encouraged to become members of SIM and are encouraged to renew annually. Annual membership is \$10.00 per individual and \$20.00 for a family. We voted this month to establish a lifetime membership of \$50.00 per individual and \$100.00 for a family. If you're not a member and would like to be, a membership application can be found at our website www.starkvilleinmotion.org. Or you can mail membership dues to SIM at PO Box 3570, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Opportunities to Get Involved

As old projects wrap up, new projects and committees are being formed. Please consider working on one of the following efforts:

Bike Race

Robert McMillen is taking leadership on developing a route and plans for a bike route and some of his ideas were presented. This race would purely be for promotion and entertainment purposes (not a fund raiser per se). SIM strongly believes that the route should include or be focused in the downtown area of Starkville. All the SIM folks there signed up to help with bike race duties such as registration. We'll need more volunteers to help that weekend as the race takes shape (no date has been selected yet.) Several have volunteered to help Robert plan, including Sara, Charlotte, Gunnar, Fletcher Haaga and James McCormick. Contact Robert directly at <robert.mcmillen@gmail.com> if you're willing to help organize, plan, or staff the bike race, and watch for more info.

Bike Route Web Site

The GDSP has asked us to look into what it would take to develop an interactive mapping system of routes in and around S'ville--they may be willing to provide funding. This would be hosted on the City of Starkville website. (By the way, check out the city's brand spanking new website, it's spiffy.) Joe Fratesi will look into what it would take to develop such a website and will be sharing info with GDSP soon. If you want to help, you can contact Joe directly at joef@ext.msstate.edu.

Fundraising

Fundraising will soon become important. Partly we need to raise money to help the cit with the Lynn Lane match (solicit in-kind goods and direct funds, etc.) Partly we just need to raise general SIM funds for ongoing education and promotion efforts. Grant Kirker volunteered to help coordinate this work. We especially need folks with a knack for fundraising and/or with contacts in the business community. Contact Grant directly if you're interested in helping with Fundraising at gkirker@gmail.com.

Outreach and Promotion of the Lynn Lane project

Money awarded in the grant for education and outreach. As this project moves forward, particularly this fall, we'll need someone to coordinate the spending of this money and come up with good ideas for outreach and education around Lynn Lane.

Whitfield/Greensboro Bike Lane

We have been asked to develop a plan and determine community support for a bike lane along Whitfield. There are logistical issues (e.g. one narrow spot) but this is the right time to pursue. The committee consists of: Matt Cox, Devon Brenner, Jimmy Richardson, Jim Gafford, Bob Fuller. If you'd like to help, there'll be work to do. Matt's meeting with the city engineer and after that we'll have to contact folks along the route to build/determine support. Contact devon at devon@ra.msstate.edu to be on this committee.

Ongoing Committees:

Education and outreach

This comittee advertises events and does publicity. It could use more help. Kathy Jacobs' been leading this. Rebecca Harvey volunteered to help. To work on general SIM education and outreach efforts, contact Kathy at jaco9865@bellsouth.net.

Sidewalk Committee

We didn't hear a report from this committee. Watch for updates.