

SIM Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2008

Over 40 people attended the first meeting of Fall 2008.

Cotton Mills: Wendy Peavey of Comvest Properties and a representative of Nicolas Properties met with SIM members to discuss the Cotton Mill development. The development will preserve the historic Cooley building and create a conference center, hotel, student housing (private apartments), retail and office space, two anchor stores, a cinema, and more. Over 20% of the land will become green space, and the developers are working on LEED certification, which means the buildings meet environmental standards. SIM members raised a variety of concerns about the design of the project, walkability, bikeability, and its impact on community. Concerns included the nature and number of connections to campus and the city, whether any bridges over 12 would be handicap accessible, putting the buildings at the edge of the street rather than centered in a sea of asphalt and parking, having the development face outward and connect to downtown and campus rather than focus inward on itself, impact on the park that abuts the property, and creating a development that really serves as a bridge between our city center, downtown, and campus, that encourages walking, biking, and more. The developers showed out-date images of the design, stating that much has been changed in response to connectivity and design concerns but the images are not ready yet. She showed a movie about the project which can be viewed at their website, cottonmillatmsu.com. The meeting was very positive, with SIM members stating their support for smart development at this location that sets a precedent that will determine the future of our city. The developers stated that they welcome all input and are eager to hear from the community to make this development a success. Watch for a separate email about how to send comments to Wendy Peavy to be shared with the developers.

See the SDN article at <http://www.starkvilledailynews.com/content/view/81152/1/>

In other business:

Safe Routes to School: The SRTS Outreach Coordinator position has been funded and approved by the city, and the position will be advertised in the papers. A person will be hired soon. We've been authorised to spend the non-infrastructure (education, incentive) funds by MDOT. Lois is meeting with the Armstrong Middle School parents this week at open houses to advocate for SRTS and inform them about the upcoming project.

Lynn Lane: Surveying has begun. Engineers will soon begin to share their total plan and some details. Please plan to attend any and all public meetings that may get announced later this fall. We hope to see earth turned before the end of the year. An education and outreach coordinator has been hired and is beginning to collaborate with Mike Hall of health promotion and John Forde of communications to move forward on the development of an education campaign competition. The Town and Garden club has committed \$5,000 (with a city match) for landscaping and other development along the Lynn Lane route, we'll need a small committee to work with them once the engineering is done to help decide the best way to spend that money.

Bike/Walk Safety Brochure: Our Biking/Walking/Share the Road safety brochure, developed by Grant Kirker this summer, has been distributed through the residence halls last weekend to all new students moving in to the residence halls. In addition, it is being distributed through parking services when people get their parking pass.

Multicultural Lions Club: Chris Cospers met with the Multicultural Lions Club during the summer. The club would like to collaborate with SIM to educate international students on bike and walking safety, safe places to bike and walk, using Starkville's bike lanes, etc. They will adapt the existing brochure to meet the needs of international students.

Health Fair: Ricky Greer and Kennet Jacobs represented SIM at the Starkville Community Schools health fair at Sudduth Elementary, handing out brochures, and sharing information about SIM.

Outreach/Membership: This summer, Kate organized a Bike Safety and Exercise program at the Starkville Public Library as part of the summer reading program. The librarian, Laura Foxworth, reports that the program was a success, and kids enjoyed air-biking to Queen's "Bicycle Race." Eric Tramel read the kids a book and shared about his own experience in which wearing a bike helmet saved his life (or at least his face). They hope we will return to do this program next summer. Several outreach programs/membership drives are on tap for the fall. Ryan Stormont attends the Community Market most weeks and is going to begin handing out our safety brochure and membership brochure each week.

Nox Trails: Our treasurer Charlotte Fuquay singlehandedly maintains the Noxubee Crest mountain bike/hiking trail system. The International Mountain Bike Association's Trail Care Crew will visit November 20-23 to help with trail maintenance, lead a trail maintenance workshop for future trail volunteers, and more. Watch for events, which may include a group ride and social dinner. And if you've never been to the trails, they are beautiful.

Arts Walking Tour: Kathy Jacobs developed a draft of a map and wrote a grant to the Starkville Area Arts Council to finish, copy, and distribute the map/brochure. More in Sept.

Day One: Patrik Nordin has been working with the Day One program. Taylor will work with our team of students, who will work with outreach and Safe Routes to School to do education and outreach on campus and in the public schools, among other projects. More in September.