

Starkville in Motion Minutes **September 8, 2008**

So much important and time-sensitive stuff is happening. Please read these entire minutes-even if you don't usually!

Sidewalks in the paper!

Check out the Sept 11th Starkville Daily News, which included a picture and an article about SIM's first sidewalk priority, Critz Street. This is the first in a series of articles about our top ten sidewalk needs.

<http://www.starkvilledailynews.com/content/view/87911/60/>

Documentary:

Devon encouraged everyone to consider attending the screening of Darius Goes West, Tuesday Sept 30th at 7:00 PM, a documentary about handicap accessibility in the US.

Visit the event's facebook website at

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=24210923837&ref=mf>

Request for Volunteers to Help with the Johnny Cash Festival:

SIM member Robbie Ward presented information about the up coming festival on October 17-19. Volunteers are needed to do things like give tours of the jail, take admissions donations, clean up afterwards, and more. Highlights include a Sunday night concert headlined by Roseanne Cash and a gospel sing on Sunday morning. Visit pardonjohnnycash.com or <http://www.new.facebook.com/event.php?eid=12926065348> .

Wheel-a-Thon:

Led by Kate Fabel, SIM is co-sponsoring a wheel-a-thon with 52 Moms, a local service organization. To be held September 27th at 9:00 AM (registration begins at 8:00) at the Thad Cochran Research Park (across from MSU on the North side). Ride a bike, push a stroller, wheel, skate, skateboard, or walk around the loop, then join in fun activities such as face painting and a moon walk. Kate needs volunteers, including folks to hang posters and folks to help with set up, clean up, etc. the day of the event, which will be a fundraiser for infrastructure and equipment at McKee Park. Email Kate directly at katya_fabel@yahoo.com to get involved. Visit this link for more info:

<http://www.new.facebook.com/event.php?eid=30735371559&ref=mf> Kate made a motion to allocate enough money to rent a porta-a-potty for the event if needed. Someone I cannot remember seconded the motion, and it carried. Savvy Grape is donating the fee for liability insurance. The Bicycle Shop, Funtime Inflatables, Bulldog Bikes, Coca-Cola and others are helping sponsor or donating goods. Join us if you can and watch for more announcements.

Lynn Lane:

Many of us attended either the Board of Aldermen meeting or the Public Comments event to hear presentations by the engineers who are developing the concept for the Lynn Lane Multipurpose Path. Design elements and other design concerns were shared. Many residents of the Sherwood Commons subdivision at the corner of Locksley Way and

South Montgomery are very concerned about the construction of this path on their side of the street. Many have sent comments and a petition with many signatures has been presented to the board. One resident told Devon that she would use family connections at MDOT to stall this project. SIM takes the stand that the path must be built where it is both safest and most economical. We are waiting for more detailed information comparing both costs and safety concerns on both sides of the streets, which have not yet been provided by the engineers. A PDF of the engineer's presentation can be found (along with a comment form) at cityofstarkville.org under the first "citizen alert" on the home page.

It will be VERY important in upcoming weeks that ALL SIM members express their support for the safest, most cost-effective construction of Lynn Lane and a complete path all the way from McKee Park/The Sportsplex to the Campus junction. Please contact your alderman now and watch for other events to promote this trail. Mailing and email addresses for the board of aldermen and mayor can be found at: <http://cityofstarkville.org/detail.php?p=7&s=32>. It will be important that elected officials hear from a wide variety of SIM members and other community folks. If just the same old faces speak up, our officials, who have been influenced in the past by negative public comments, may not understand the importance of this project and it's design in its entirety, a complete, safe route from McKee to campus.

On a more positive note, an Education and Outreach coordinator has been hired, and teams of PR and Health Promotion students are learning about SIM, Lynn Lane, and community issues and preparing PR campaigns for a competition. The winning team will earn \$5,000 and see their campaign come to life. The goal is to educate our citizens about sharing the road, bike safety, safe walking and riding habits, etc.

Day One:

Some Day One students were introduced. Taylor Adams in MSU's procurements and contracts office will be the SIM/Day One Community Partner and is working with Patrik Nordin. Day One students will spend this semester working on a variety of projects for SIM including a safety campaign putting bike safety flyers on bikes, presenting safety skits to elementary students, helping with Walk to School Day (or a couple of walking-school-bus type events), helping with a Safe Routes to School neighborhood inventory, and raffling off a bike to elementary students who enter safety related art into a drawing.

182 and Beautification:

Richard Corey made a brief presentation about his report to the Beautification Committee on ways to improve 182/Martin Luther King Drive from Old West Point Road to Long Street. Among the 9 steps are regular street sweeping, sidewalks and bike lanes, trash cans, entrance features, cross walks, and plantings. Street sweeping will begin immediately, and funding is being sought for the other changes.

Arts Walking Tour:

In the spring, Kathy Jacobs wrote a grant to fund the creation and distribution of an Arts Walking Tour, a brochure with a map of a self-guided tour to businesses and other public spaces with art on display. The Starkville Area Arts Council awarded this project a

\$1,000 grant. Kathy will work with Dylan Karges and the Arts Council to plan a kick-off event in the spring. Email her at kathy@kathyjacobs.com to help with this event.

Sidewalk Committee

The sidewalk committee has shared information on our top ten priorities. Watch for a series of articles over the next several weeks. Thanks to Kelly Daniels for covering these sidewalk concerns. Our next task will be to advocate for these projects.

Safe Routes to School

The city is in the process of hiring a coordinator, who will enact all the SRTS events such as surveys, an assessment of neighborhoods, walk to school days, incentive programs, education, etc. The engineering/construction project is working slowly through MDOT etc.

Slate of Officers:

Each September the board puts forth a tentative slate of officers, according to our by-laws. In October, nominations are taken from the floor. These are the current people willing to serve on our leadership team for 2009. If you are interested in a leadership position, please, please speak up at the October meeting. All are welcome to nominate themselves or someone else for a leadership position. New faces might be good. Thanks to Robbie Ward, Hamp Beatty and Jan Morgan for being willing to consider joining the leadership team.