

Bike Winnipeg Business Meeting

August 10, 2015 – 6:00 pm

Sport for Life Centre, 145 Pacific Ave

Minutes

Attending:

Directors: Ian Walker (meeting chair), Charles Feaver, Jeremy Hull (meeting secretary), Bill Newman (treasurer), Doug Grant

Staff: Mark Cohoe

Regrets: Rachael Alpern, Laura Donatelli, Kaye Grant, Kailey Kroeker, Fabian Suarez Amaya, Dustin Dilts, Shawn Defoort,

July minutes approved

Executive Director Report (Mark – see Mark’s written report)

Southwest Transitway –lack of connection between Parker and Taylor

A tunnel is needed to connect the AT path along the planned transitway at Parker to the north side of the CN tracks: this would have substantial economic benefits to commercial developments along Taylor, benefits to the City in tax revenues, and benefits to cyclists traveling between River Heights and Fort Garry. This would be a good time to do it because of low construction costs. Mark will develop a paper on this which will become the basis for a lobbying effort.

Improvements to path under Norwood Bridge

Mark is working with a group concerned that the path on the south side of the river under Norwood Bridge is too low and unpaved and is badly affected by high water. Connections on/off the bridge are also an issue.

Main St

Mark is continuing to work with the Main St BIZ regarding creating a protected bike lane along Main near Sutherland.

Fundraising/Membership (Charles)

Concerns were raised about managing our T-shirt inventory and following up with retailers who are stocking or selling the T-shirts. Ian and Mark will follow up to see where we are at with inventory and sales and arrangements with bike shops. Bill has developed a spreadsheet on which he tracks T-shirt expenses and sales which he will share.

Our effort to recruit members last month resulted in about a dozen memberships/renewals. We need to do this regularly. Charles suggests another email blast following our next newsletter.

A history themed bicycle tour might attract members – Charles suggested the Isbister House Tour, perhaps in connection with a tour of the Seven Oaks site.

****We need to recruit two new board members and a Fundraising & Membership Committee chair****

Board members are asked to identify/approach potential candidates.

We now have a design for promotional stickers that we plan to produce and tape onto bike racks around the city. Bill will print out and produce the stickers, and everyone will be encouraged to tape them up in appropriate locations.

Advocacy (Charles – see report)

Jeremy & Charles had a very positive meeting with MPI concerning plans for their road safety public education campaign in 2017. MPI is ready to move away from the “share the road” message and presented a preliminary concept that would promote safe passing, tentatively titled “Room to Breath.”

Charles also reported that in the material MPI has presented to the Public Utility Board for the fall rate hearings, they now identify the safety of “vulnerable road users” as the 4th highest priority, which is a higher level than in the past.

Charles is offering to host a night of beer drinking and watching videos of scary road encounters, which Ian is going to supply, date to be determined.

Policy (Ian)

The committee had a good meeting with Gord Friesen of the Winnipeg Police. They discussed the issue of speed limits. Gord’s suggestion was that it would be better to focus on specific streets and neighbourhoods rather than trying to get a blanket speed reduction to 30 or 40 km/hr, for example to work towards establishing neighbourhood greenways with traffic calming measures, and to seek input and support of local residents for this.

Education (Jeremy – see report)

Jeremy reported on progress with the Bicycling Education & Training in Schools (“BETS”) project which is moving forward, although somewhat slowed down by summer and the difficulty of getting feedback from the schools.

Finance (Bill – see financial statement)

We are continuing on an even keel financially.

Our new Donations box proved effective at a recent outing, and Bike Valet has been receiving substantial donations as well.

There is a proposal to give our Executive Director two weeks paid vacation time. This was endorsed by the directors present (although we lacked a quorum).

Meeting adjourned.

Executive Director's Report

Bike Winnipeg

August 10, 2016

Advocacy

My advocacy efforts over the last month have been focused on the Southwest Rapid Transit Corridor Project, which has been taking longer than planned. The main flaws I see in the plan are that savings from the Plenary Group design changes have not been put into a direct connection across the CNR yards to development sites along the south side of Taylor Avenue (Grant Park Festival & Grant Park Pavilions). These developments lie within the 800m transit oriented development zone for the proposed Parker Station and would provide a ready market for transit passengers, and would likely see faster and denser development in the presence of a tunnel under the tracks linking Parker Station to these properties. Such a tunnel would also likely help influence the development of the Oak Grove (Parker Lands) development by providing a focal point for transit oriented development along the pathway.



800m Transit Oriented Design Zone north of the tracks that would lie within a 10 minute walk of the proposed Parker Station that would lie within a 10-minute walk if a direct crossing were included in phase II of the Rapid Transit Corridor.



Grant Park Pavilions site with proposed rail side pathways linking to Taylor pathway and Parker Station overlaid.



Aerial view of Grant Park Pavilions, Grant Park Festival and Oak Grove sites.

We have cheap finance and construction conditions now, and we are already negotiating with the rail line (which is being realigned) and the relevant property owners, so it makes sense for this project to be included within the second phase of the SWRTC project.

Other concerns that will be addressed are geometry and connectivity on the east side of Pembina @ Jubilee, separation of pedestrians and bicycles at stations, the berm along Hurst, connectivity around Chancellor Station, and bike valet space at Investors Group Field.

I should be able to get this completed next week, after which I will circulate to transit groups, Councilors, MLA's and MP's and try to set up meetings before going wider with the media and public.

I have also been contacted by a group looking at making improvements at the south end of the Norwood Bridge (mainly CEPTED), and will put together some recommendations and send out a questionnaire to members to help make the case for improvements.

Outreach

- We had about 20 people out for our ArtRide on June 17th through St. Boniface and the Downtown.
- I had a successful day at the St. Norbert Farmer's Market on Saturday June 30th.
- Our next ArtRide is scheduled for Sunday August 13th. Volunteers are needed.

Education

I am working on the curriculum committee as part of the Bicycle Education Training project with Green Action Centre, WRENCH, MPI and Seven Oaks SD. See Jeremy's report for further details.