

Minutes 2-19-2004 Bike / Pedestrian Task Force

Attendance: James Latimore of Woodfin, Tom Redinger, Joseph Viola, Monica Koerschner, Blake Esselstyn, Cathy Hohenstein, Terri March, Vicki Rowe-Currence, Elizabeth Teague of MPO, Linda Giltz of Land of Sky, Dan Baechtold of MPO, Tony Hauser and Claudia Nix.

The group discussed up coming events. Events are listed above in email plus on Sat. April 17th World Health Day Int'l - don't know what is planned locally yet. Other future dates...

áEarth Day April 22nd

áMt. Sports Festival May 7-9th

áBike Ride Sat. May 8 Meet 1st Baptist Church contact Kris Hinz

áStrive Not to Drive week May 8 - 15 contact Linda Giltz 251-6622

áSat. May 15 - Bike Dealer's Expo at the speedway park. Try out road and Mt. bikes. Contact Craig Friedrich 254-2771.

Paula Robins the Ex. Director of the Asheville Parks & Rec. Foundation and member of the Greenway Commission brought us up to date on their progress. They just finished updating their 5 year master plan. She reviewed their accomplishments. They have almost 5 miles of paved Greenway on the ground, involving the Greenway on Weaver Blvd and the Fr. Broad River Greenway. They have an easement in front of Junk yard on Amboy Rd. which will connect the Speedway to the existing trail. Other greenway plans include Richmond Hill, Haywood Rd. corridor; Clingman Forest has a completed plan, just needs the money. Construction has begun on the Azalea Pk. Greenway. Others planned are Sweeten Creek corridor, West Asheville - Rhododendron Ck. And the Wal-Mart Greenway. The Reed Ck Greenway on Broadway has land in hand.

Fundraisers will be happening this spring. There is a need for 2 bridges crossing the creek. The Health Adventure will be moving to land adjacent this greenway.

Elizabeth Teague reported that the bicycling sign on Amboy Rd. is no longer a hazard to cyclists, it was moved back. MPO staff reported the Task Force concern to the NCDOT Division Office who took care of the request. Also, the culvert at end of crosswalk on Lodge St. was repaired. Keep your eyes open for other safety maintenance needs and make sure you reprt them to City staff.

In discussing the Pedestrian Plan Forum which is to occur during our meeting next month (March 18th) several questions arose, this caused a change in our meeting agenda. Elizabeth Teague spent time educating the members on these concerns. The Unified Development Ordinance allows a \$20.00 per foot

variance fee to be paid by developers when a sidewalk is deemed unnecessary. The problem is the actual cost to put in a sidewalk can be from \$30.00 to \$70.00 in the Asheville area depending on conditions. This discrepancy shows a need for updating.

Another problem is the sidewalk data base has not been updated in 5 years with improved or new sidewalks. This makes it difficult to give up to date facts on our sidewalks. Since funds for sidewalks & repairs are limited. We need help from the community in making our priorities. The concern was expressed that perhaps we were raising unrealistic expectations by holding this forum. However, having public involvement helps determine the criteria for sidewalk repair and funding. The City is also hoping to get an intern in place to conduct a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian facilities and to establish an on-going database that can be maintained into the future.

This discussion helped us determine how to set up the forum.

*We will ask the public to bring photos of their requests or concerns.

*There will be a formal presentation first, with before and after pictures to highlight the success of the plan so far

*Provide time for public input on the maps - both with sticky dots and with post-its to allow people to describe needs. Information collected will be incorporated into the sidewalk inventory.

*Terri will see if she can't find a sponsor to provide some food. Otherwise Task Force members can bring some snacks to share.

*will provide tables for key groups to have information and sign up for people to get involved: Healthy Buncombe, The Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, The Parks and Greenways Foundation, Strive-Not-To Drive Day Committee.

Our charge is to get the word out to neighborhood groups throughout the communities. We would like a good turnout. We will have material on hand to recruit individuals for events listed above and for education.