

Bike/Ped Task Force Meeting minutes November 29, 2007

Present: Pattie Moore, Janet Barlow, Eleanor Margulies from WWC, Leah Ferguson, Barb Mee, Katie Chappell, Terri March, Joseph Viola and Claudia Nix

The Bike Ballot and Halloween Ride which were both put on by Asheville on Bikes, were a huge success. Around 40 participants attended both, however it was difficult to measure how many attended the Bike Ballot because people came and went. Unfortunately, Bryan Freeborn was not re-elected but he only missed election by 70 some votes. The fact that people were able to connect with city council members who support the bike plan was huge. Both Bryan and Brownie gave excellent talks and related well to those attending. The Halloween was fun and introduced several diverse groups of people to each other. Both events accomplished a lot for the cycling community. Now we need to build on this.

Claudia sent the white paper to each of the city council members. After some spirited discussion with one of the members she now believes she has the support of everyone on the city council for the bike plan. Of course time will tell. Claudia has gotten the white paper on our web address, www.abptaskforce.org. Please review. She agreed to send out the information that helped get all council on board, through Barb Mee. Barb mentioned that it may be February before the bike plan gets presented to the city council members. There were a few problems that might have hindered its passing. We will let everyone know when it will go before the council. Claudia's next plan is to send the Bicycle Friendly booklet of each of the communities to the city council and county commissioners. Claudia will need to get Bill Russell's email address and send this information to him. Terri mentioned that Bill attended the Greenways & Parks Commission and expressed a desire for greenways and bike facilities.

The Bike Transportation Map or suitability map changes have been sent to Mary Meletiou with the State. The software for the map is really old so it may be a problem getting this updated. We will have difficulty putting in new items unless we can just color code them. Claudia will be calling printing companies to see whether they can work with the software. This is our first step now. If no one can work with it we may just have to develop a new map. We (the city) will have to pay for half of the printing costs and the state will take up the other half if we can use the software. We do have some funds set aside for this printing.

Web Site – We had a large discussion of ideas for adding to our site. Folks really like the way it is developing. We talked about advertising the web address and getting more links. One suggestion was to have business cards that task force members could handout. Regarding links, link to the city and county web sites and Warren Wilson and UNCA. Another suggestion was to add Claudia's Op ED pieces which were in the AC-Times this fall. See if we can put the meetings on the Mt. Express calendar. Talk to Kathy Molin about getting with the Grove Park Inn about getting their employees to commute by bicycle and participate in the Strive Not to Drive event. She is already working with them on a Passport Bus Pass for employees.

Leah Ferguson is a skilled facilitator and offered her skills in helping us identify what we want to focus on for the coming year. We have a lot on our plate and we have accomplished a lot. We do not want to get over-loaded and work sporadically. We want to make some plans so we know what to spend our energy on and how we are going to get there. We decided we would like to spend a Saturday in January in retreat to do this. Claudia asked each person to look at their schedule and get back with her as to time they could meet, so she could schedule time to do this. We will need about a 4 hour block to time dedicated to plan. This meeting **will not** replace our scheduled meeting for January.

Our next Task Force meeting will be Thursday, January 24th at 5:30pm in our regular location.