

Bike/Ped Task Force Minutes - January 22, 2009

Present: Deidre Duffy (new), Barb Mee, Bill Crownover, Allan Frank, Katie Chappell, Terri March, Michael Sule and Claudia Nix

A new year and we were misplaced because we forgot to re-secure our meeting room. Luckily we were able to meet in the Buncombe County Health Center Boardroom.

Claudia updated folks on many of her meetings over the past month. She met with the Mission Hospital landscape architects to discuss pedestrian and bicycle needs during future hospital improvements.

She met with CAN the Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods and asked them for their support enforcing the cities ordinance for residents to keep their sidewalk clear and free of debris so pedestrians can walk safely.

Joe Minicozie attended the Buncombe Co Greenway's Commission meeting and gave a meaningful presentation on how the I-26 corridor alternate 4b actually is income generating through tax revenues gained rather than lost by the other alternatives.

She shared her op-ed piece for the Asheville Citizen-Times on traffic calming. This moved us into a discussion on one of our goals from last year to educate Asheville citizens on bicycling and pedestrian safety.

Terri March agreed to find us someone to train us on working with the media and help us develop a media campaign on Safety. Barb Mee came up with a catchy tag line "Be Seen Be predictable". The general consensus was that we liked it. Terri also mentioned that Charles Worley stopped her one day when she was riding her bike home from work. He commented on how helpful she had been by signaling her intentions. We need to ask him if he would be willing to write an article about that.

We recently had a pedestrian hit by a car at the intersection of Coxe and Patton Ave. He was a blind man walking with his dog. This is unfortunate but at least the motorist was cited for this which we are very happy about. We are extremely grateful that the Asheville Police are working with us to improve our pedestrian situation.

A bicyclist who was cited for passing cars stopped at the traffic light recently wrote a letter to the state Bicycle Program director complaining about his citation and asking if he wasn't in the right as he thought. He was nicely informed that his citation was in fact correct and he was in the wrong and given the statute. So we are seeing that our local Police are being reinforced in their efforts to bring all folks into obeying the laws.

Claudia and Barb shared a found short cut that can also give us another official bike lane. Both of these items need to be put in our next bike map update. Liberty Street in Oakley is a dead-end street. However, at the side of the gate there is a paved access for pedestrians and bicyclists that enable them a short cut to south Asheville. The extension of the road becomes Crayton Road which comes out on Sweeten Creek Road right next to the I-40 exit ramp. If you turn left onto Sweeten Creek and go almost ½ mile you can turn right onto West Chapel Road. There is enough shoulder on West Chapel to have a

bike lane as you climb the hill. If you turn right onto Deanwood Road you come out onto Hendersonville Road directly across from Browntown Road in Biltmore Forest.

Barb asked how we felt about hosting a “Sunday Greenways” this summer. Apparently there is some support for such a program by city staff. This would involve closing down some streets to traffic so citizens could walk, bike, dance, etc in the streets for several hours on a Sunday afternoon. Those present liked the idea. Michael Sule said Asheville on Bikes would be glad to be involved in the planning of such an event. There was a discussion of what streets would be the best to use.

Barb also talked about the 20 bike lockers that have been ordered for the city. They would be placed in the city parking garages, and the Rankin walkway to Haywood Street. They will be covered with artwork to make them more attractive; 14 will be monthly rentals and the rest will be daily rentals. The parking department has agreed to handle the logistics of the lockers and spent \$20,000.00 to purchase them.

Bill Crowover reported on the bike loaning program in Spartanburg, SC. A non-profit organization has been formed to handle the program for the city. They use a card swiping program and users have to sign a waiver before being able to rent the bike. Mike and Bill are planning a trip to Spartanburg to check them out.

Michael reminded us of the Bike Love concert which is happening on Feb 21st at the Wedge in the river district. The cost is \$15.00, there will be 3 bands, food and brew from the French Broad Brewery. They are hoping for participation from all bike organizations in our community and they can show off information about their organization.

Allan Frank has invited us to participate in tabling at his church the Unitarian Church on Charlotte and Edwin Streets on Sunday, February 15th from 10Am – 1PM. We will have maps and other information about using bikes and walking for transportation.

We need volunteers to assist with the Healthy Buncombe kids bicycle rodeos. Rodeos are scheduled for April 18th at UNC-A for Healthy Kids Day from 10-2, April 26th in Biltmore Village for Earth Day from 10-2 and at Vance Elementary School on May 9th from 10-2 in West Asheville. There will be volunteer training at Biltmore Baptist Church parking lot Saturday, February 21 from 10-noon or Thursday, March 19 4-6PM. Contact Claudia if you want to be involved. We need lots of volunteers for these programs.

We did not have time to go over our accomplishments last year but I have listed them. Please review.
Submitted by Claudia