

Cambridge Bicycle Committee monthly meeting

Wed, October 14, 2009 5:30pm

Present: Cara Seiderman, Catherine Hornsby, Scott Walker, Gerry Swislow, Adam Serafin, Ken Field, Walter Willet, Ellen Aronson, John Burckardt, Megan Krey, Chris Porter, Yuhgo Yamaguchi

Tardy: Joan Friebley, Manju Gokhale, Steve Miller, Viola Augustin, Peter Stokes, Tom Meek

Guests: Tufts Univ public planning students: Heather Saucedo, Rowan Spivey, Ben Simons, Eric Gramgrone, Christina Drisco, Alex Reisman, Andy Likashi, Dan Epstein from TROMP
Alex Epstein from Somerville Bike Committee

I. Introductory items (5:30pm)

Minutes from last meeting approved - no corrections.

Oct 4 ride: thanks to everyone who helped out, esp. GS
GS is posting photos to site soon

May ride on 5/22/2010 – assuming this works with GoGreen month dates and activities
GS - Somerville will plan a ride so as to not conflict with our date, so let them know when we set our date
GS is not organizing this ride (who is?)
GS will change date on website, if necessary

II. Other organizations

Dan Epstein from TROMP (Travel Responsibility Outreach Mentoring Program)

What: A one-year grassroots program to educate/increase awareness of various modes of transportation (bike, ped, driving).

Goal is to help everyone become more aware of the rules/laws we should follow so that we can all go about transporting ourselves throughout the city in a nice, civilized fashion.

Who: volunteers - they are seeking more of them for different initiatives

Where: throughout the Boston area

When: from now until next October (presumably, as it's a 1-year program)

Why: If people know and abide by the rules, we'll all have fewer accidents, and be safer and happier as a result.

How: mentoring programs - citizens, with help from police, to educate people about the rules of transportation enforcement programs - enforce rules and penalize those who break them

Suggestions/comments from committee:

KF: kids crossing against light (with assistance from crossing guards) is an issue

KF: Cambridge has a transient population - need lasting messages in order to maintain effectiveness

KF: right on red - drivers rarely stop first

EA: warnings are more effective than fines (educational vs. punitive)

SW: drivers don't stop at stop line

WW: cars hitting bikes is a big issue; cars rarely get cited/punished for this

Thanks to Dan for bringing snacks to our meeting!

III. Projects and planning

A. CitySmart debriefing

CS: recap of program (6 months, Cambridgeport, social marketing program to promote more sustainable transportation)

Comments:

CS: fielding survey now to gather feedback on CitySmart program

SW: need a banner so that people can see menu of all rides?

SW: gauge interest in rides before organizing them?

JF: why just Cambridgeport?

CS response: not enough resources to run it citywide; needed to set a boundary to measure effect; citywide event too big to manage

MG: should we work through schools to get to kids?

KF and SM: food/drink related rides have been successful in the past (restaurant/bar tour)

Summary of CitySmart feedback:

1. need more lead time for publicity and advertising
2. partnerships are effective (e.g., Cambridge Arts Council and Art Ride)
3. bad weather is bad for rides
4. themed rides seem to have more affinity than educational/pedantic rides
5. regular ride times and locales can draw more people as it's a consistent event people can plan around
6. free food is big draw. more so than free stuff/swag.
7. incorporating kids will (obviously) draw parents
8. organize events where people already congregate (e.g., Dana Park)

B. priorities for work projects for next year

Will defer conversation until next meeting

E-mail any ideas you would like to discuss to CS and CH

III. Reports, updates, meetings

A. Construction and public works

GS: Memorial Drive (Cambridge side) path has been repaved!

CS: next year street markings for bike will be emphasized

SM: Aloisi (sp?) said that Longfellow bridge will have wheelchair access

B. Police report - skipped

C. Development projects

CS: Discovery Park (near Alewife/Rt 2, where Faces nightclub used to be)

Alexandria project near Binney St.

Porter Sq. T station will get a new elevator built - will affect bike parking

CBC formally recommends that the maximum possible number of bike racks that can fit above the station be installed after construction is complete

D. DCR Bridges, paths

Various projects (DCR Alewife Brook, Mass Highway, North Bank Bridge) around Alewife were discussed - need clarification/facts on these.

KF: center line painting on path - Dan Driscoll wants to do it, but no funds for it; can Charles River Conservancy fund it?

JB: painting a line is \$0.50/foot - not very expensive

MG: CRC is looking for volunteers to help clean, prune branches

E. Other

Wayfinding - BU to Inman Sq. route is not set yet - need to nail down

IV. Announcements, next meeting

Next meeting Nov 18 (to avoid Nov 11 holiday)

Meeting adjourned (7:30pm)

Respectfully submitted,

Yuhgo Yamaguchi