

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE
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Bob Trane, Board of
Traffic and Parking

Police Dept. (vacant)
Dept. (vacant)

Dept. of Public Works (vacant)

Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD)

MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, May 22, 2005, City Hall

ATTENDEES Alan, Ron, Greg, Jim, Dereck, Steve
Guest: Tamara Metz

1. Minutes - Alan called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm. The April minutes were reviewed and approved. An

abbreviated agenda was approved because of the earlier ethics/open meeting seminar that members were attending at the high school.

2. Union Square - Tamara Metz, a volunteer, has been going to the Union Square Main Streets initiative transportation committee meetings. She and Phil Goff have done some site visits and measured road widths. She reports that the transportation committee is not in favor of re-opening Washington St. to traffic. A parking lot and plaza currently occupy the area where Washington St. used to be. Ron asked about money for bicycle parking in the square. He also asked whether bicycle access could be created across the plaza so cyclists would not have to ride on Somerville Ave. through the square, which is crowded with car and truck traffic. Greg asked that Traffic and Parking give a status update on the Washington St./McGrath Hwy. intersection project, which would upgrade the signals and simplify the traffic patterns under the viaduct.

3. City Report - Steve Winslow

A. Community Path - The June 2nd. public meeting has been postponed. Steve explained that smaller neighborhood meetings are planned to introduce the project, with a larger public meeting to be held in the fall.

B. Groundwork Somerville - Jennifer Hill is leaving the organization later this year. Steve said the City is re-thinking the focus of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant that funds bicycle, pedestrian, and healthy community activities and partnerships. There are 3 years left in the grant. A bicycle

committee point person will be needed to follow up on this. [no one named, TBA]

C. Assembly Square area - The City is getting \$19,500 from the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (MDCR) towards the Rte. 28/Fellsway/Wellington Bridge undercrossing. Assembly Sq. developers have also earmarked \$100,000 for bicycle-related improvements in the Fellsway corridor.

D. Bicycle ordinance - Steve said that the overhaul of the zoning ordinance is going to wait until the fall, after the elections, which means that any bicycle language would not be heard until then. Alan will contact Ald. Denise Provost about re-introducing the bicycle parking ordinance.

4. Community Path volunteer cleanup - Jim asked about moving ahead with the volunteer work on the path, and Steve said he'd follow up. Alan has emailed to the committee the potential steps to take for recreational use of Cedar to Lowell St. section. Guilford Industries (lessee of freight rights in the railroad corridor). They want a release of environmental claims along the right-of-way. It goes to the city solicitor for review.

5. Historical Tour - Ron reported that over 140 cyclists showed up at the start of the Historical Ride on May 21st. co-hosted by Somerville and Cambridge, despite the cool and cloudy day. In Somerville, we had 3 police escorts, one of which, Jim Hodgdon, was on a bike. **Ed. note:** due to lower staffing levels in the Police Dept., the community officers on bicycle patrol have been temporarily suspended. A suggestion was made to have a bullhorn next time, along with announced bathroom breaks. Greg will follow up with the police regarding the future of the bicycle patrols.

6. Other issues - Greg asked that names of bicycle commuters in the City be given to him for a future Somerville journal article.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 21, at the Visiting Nurse Assn. Assisted Living Center in Lowell St., 3rd. floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Palmer, Secretary