

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Police ??? ???
Traffic & Parking Todd Blake
OHCD Jeff Levine
OHCD Tuck O'Brien
Mayor's Office Heather
Rowe
Dept. Public Works ???
???

MEETING MINUTES Meeting held October 23, 2001

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AGENDA Announcements, City Report, Bridges, Tour de Somerville, Subcommittees, Magoun Sq., Union Sq.

ATTENDEES Joel Bennett Jim Gallagher Adam Kessel
Ron Newman Greg Palmer Bhupesh Patel Andy Rubel
Tuck O'Brien, Office of Housing and Community Development (**OHCD**), Jim Hodgkins –Officer Ward 5

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-Chair Darren Carlton
Turil Cronberg
Jim Gallagher
Adam Kessel
Ron Newman
Chairperson Greg Palmer
Secretary Bhupesh Patel
Carl Razzaboni
Andy Rubel

1. Announcements
 - Next month's meeting will be at V & A on Lowell Street
 - Officer Jim Hodgkins offers observations
 - i. Most accident prone areas are Central St., Washington St. and Davis Sq. sidewalk riders
 - ii. There are 17 officers on bicycles - sixteen officers and one supervisor
 - iii. Officers teach orientation classes at schools as well as Bike rodeo once a year.
 - iv. Officers encourage information for them to use - Andy will get them Bicycle Guide Book
2. City Report
 - Tuck spoke with Stan Koty/Shannon. The undercarriage at Fellsway bridge made it into budget.
 - Union Square planning has bike lanes sorely represented
 - Cambridge Health Alliance has abandoned the plans for parking at Central Street lot, for now.
3. Bridges
 - School Street is well under construction
 - Bridges on a peak elevations expose bicyclist to a blind spot when vehicles speed over the bridges.
 - Committee would like to see Bridge designs @ 25%, and 75%. Typically these are public meetings.
4. Tour de Somerville
 - Over fifty people were presented and many were interested in Assembly Sq. access and Comm. Path.
 - Friends of the Community Path were cohorts.
 - It may be possible for us to choreograph the next Tour with a major goal completed and with the Mayor present.
5. Bike Racks Subcommittee – **all members participating**
 - **Teele Square** – (Andy) There are many parking meters with no racks, two post and rings @ Broadway, three bike rings and posts @ Holland Street, and many places for more potential posts esp. if excessive "two hour" parking signs were removed.
 - **Ball Square** – One bike rings was located at "Soundbites" and "Kelly's Diner". Otherwise poor showing.
 - **Magoun Square** – Joel Bennett will complete ASAP to facilitate the writing of a letter.
 - **Lower Broadway** – Greg and Turil will survey
 - **Union Square** – Ron and Jim will survey
 - **Powderhouse Square** – Ron will survey
 - **No Name Square #1** – Carl will survey (near Conway Park)
 - **No Name Square #2** – Adam will survey (near Dali's Restaurant at Beacon St. and Washington St.)
 - **Davis Square** – (Bhupesh) There were many Bike rings along Elm St and Highland Ave. There are also many central bike parking areas at "T" station. Other park area was recognized at Starbuck's plaza and public park across from Osco Drug. Potential retailer investment was established from two vendors.
 - Other categories to follow include "**Parks**", "**Schools**", and "**Commercial entities**".
6. Bicycle Routes Subcommittee – Darren, Bhupesh, Todd
 - Final "draft" was presented
 - All members to review and respond with comments via email before next meeting so final plan can be drawn and presented by next meeting.
 - **Bill Lyons, Traffic and Parking**, has stated the Regulations can be amended at any time.

"Advocates for Pedestrians, Bicyclists, and other environmentally sensible transportation"

7. Membership – finalized by **Greg**
 - **Sean O'Donovan** will be the Alderman representative
 - Department of Public Works still outstanding.
 - Police department needs new representative since Bob Ankenbaeur was called to duty.
 - **Turil's** name, as a new member is going through Alderman.
 - **Heather Rowe** will be the representative from the mayor's office.
8. Bicycle Regulations Subcommittee – **Jim, Adam, Andy**
 - They will work on comparing the "existing" regulations to the "ideal" regulations for future meeting
9. Magoun Square Improvements – Carrie Sousa, project manager @ OHCD
 - Bike rings should be a priority over the racks
 - A better location for parking signs should be determined since they are infringing on potential bike ring locations, as well as appear rather unnecessarily numerous.
 - The beginning of construction is slated for October 2002.
 - **Joel** pointed out the exit and entrance of Dunkin Donuts via the municipal lot would create less entry and exits into this rather complicated intersection, and thereby make it considerably safer for all participants.
 - All agreed that users of Dunkin Donuts as a user group are rather frequent, fast paced and exit and enter from as many avenues as they can find including those that are not intended. A good example is the left out of the parking lot onto Broadway.
10. Union Square Transportation Plan
 - Alt #3 - Free right turn for vehicles from Somerville Ave heading West onto Bow St. leaves the Bicyclist heading straight West on Somerville Ave. exposed to the onslaught of the right turning vehicles cutting them off. The same holds true for both directions on Somerville Ave. at the intersection of Prospect , Webster street heading North , and Washington Street heading east. The scale of the drawing is also too small to identify the intended specific proposal for bike lanes and signaling and/or signage at intersections.
 - Alt #3 - Loss of central gathering park space seems is too big of a loss.
 - No one from Bike Committee participated in the Union Square Workshop for 75% completion
 - Each member should review the three alternatives and establish at least three concerns that should be addressed. The third alternative seems to be the most popular and therefore, a focus for us to ensure it is workable for cyclists.

Please notify SBC at Bhupes@msn.com of any discrepancies, within **seven days** of release date below and JLevine@ci.somerville.ma.us for any inquiries.

cc. all community and public members stated above, City of Somerville web site, and list of documented other generous "active volunteers" and community subscribers