



Meeting Notes

Wed September 5th, 2018 7:00-8:30PM
City Hall Cassidy Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Enter from the ground-level entrance at the rear of the building
(opposite the parking lot)

Present: Jaime Wilson, Gabrielle Watson, Ellen Katz, Tom Blazej, Ryan Williams
Guests: Judy Crocker, Safe Routes to School & Elena Proakis-Ellis, City of Melrose Engineer
Regrets: Carol Naczas, Liz Foulser, Jonah Chiarenza, Cindy Chabat, Dan Krechmer
Chairing: Ryan Williams
Notes: Ryan Williams

Notes from PBC Agenda 9.5.2018

Safe Routes to School

Judy Crocker shares her experience and recent efforts to work in Melrose Schools. She has 14 yrs experience doing SRTS in another town and has been working to get Melrose onboard for the last six months. Not much success but spoke to a few folks in the school system and is now talking to the resource officer (Higgins?)

SRTS has a different implementation model for each community - point of contact can change and may not even be within the school system. She wants to try getting the bike committees help as volunteer coordinators and involve PTO's, engineers, etc. Elena says the athletic director, Steve Fogarty, is the official safe routes contact.

Ellen notes contact has been made before but there was no champion within the school to take the lead.

Ryan gives an overview of how we got the invitation to talk at the city-wide PTO meeting on September 18th. Judy talks about her upcoming presentation and what she intends to show to the Citywide PTO.

ACTION POINT - Elena recommends we keep in the loop on all SRTS work.
sfogarty@melroseschools.com.

Judy shows her presentation. She again discusses her difficulty getting ahold of folks at the schools. She says she is hopeful that connecting with the ped bike committee and pto will help her be more successful.

Action item: Share article Ellen mentions on police bike safety efforts: <http://melrose.wickedlocal.com/news/20180904/melrose-safety-stop>

Action item: Mention to Steve Fogarty and Kara Shower that we are having a meeting with citywide PTO (Ryan)

Action item: Ryan and Jonah to attend City-Wide PTO meeting on September 18th to talk about Ped-Bike committee work, interest in supporting schools to implement Safe Routes to School programs and other initiatives to make access to schools safer by bike and on foot, such as supporting collaboration with the City to develop specific area design solutions for crosswalks, streets, sidewalks, & bike access.

Melrose High school/Middle school bicycle and pedestrian accessibility study

Elena talks about the Walk Boston / Watson Active report and recommendations, specifically how they implemented some of it in their complete streets grant with infrastructure on street markings crosswalks and the turnaround to get cars off the street to do drop-off. Tom mentions that his daughter personally appreciated the new crosswalks.

Elena mentions that on the issue of parking, Cindy Taymore, School Superintendent, has unsuccessfully sought additional parking spaces with the Traffic Commission, and feels that efforts to reach out to her about shifting kids from driving to walking or biking would be a little tense right now.

North-South Bike Route update

Elena met briefly this week with Jackie Bird and John Scenna, after a delay, and shared some initial but specific feedback. The City will focus on 2 of 3 routes with money they have now – the “business” route west of Main Street and the “commuter” route on Main Street, as presented in the plan. They want to modify the business route a bit as discussed to avoid Greenwood & Franklin, which have dangerous intersections, but the rest looks good.

The City is going to do striping on the business route in the fall. The commuter route will be striped in spring. Elena says John is worried about introducing complex symbols and intersection treatments to DPW striping crews used to routine work.

The Mayor’s office is not in favor of any colors (green) in the downtown area for historic character reasons. They are open to raised crosswalks in residential and school areas, and like the dotted lines for bike paths moving through intersections. Raised crosswalks can be more costly than current funding can manage at estimated costs of 65-75k for intersections that need drainage such as at raised crosswalk at Vinton and Warwick, which Elena was a champion for.

Elena says there is a lot of discrepancy with the parking code vs what is on the streets and the City will be looking at these issues as well to make signage consistent.

Victorian Fair

The Victorian Fair is one of the flagship events of the Ped-Bike committee, where we interact with Melrose citizens and connect with future members.

Liz Foulser is seeking volunteers to help with the bike valet parking. Ellen wants to help but had not signed up for being there all day. Gabrielle brought basic materials for the booth, focusing on the North-South bike network plan and has more available.

ACTION ITEMS:

- GW to email Liz and ask her for a breakdown of the coordination plan for day-of.
- Liz to let Ellen know who has volunteered.
- PLEASE SIGN UP TO JOIN OUR PRESENCE AT THE VICTORIAN FAIR!

Jaime Wilson is organizing the Saturday ride to the Northern Strand. Bike to the Sea colleagues have created a flier, invited their members to join, and Steve Winslow will join the ride to provide history and future of the Northern Strand.

ACTION ITEM: Regarding bike to the sea ride, we need to advertise it on social media.

- Jaime to share latest flier from Bike to the Sea with GW
- GW email Kara to share with her list
- GW to post on FB and Twitter and Ped-bike list
- GW to ask Cindy to post on web site

Committee members review and provide initial feedback on draft flier for the Ped Bike Committee developed by Tom Blazej and Gabrielle.

ACTION ITEM:

- Ryan to work with Tom to make minor edits for the brochure.
- Tom to print out ahead of Victorian Fair and get it to Ellen.