

Bus Riders of Saskatoon - Minutes - Meeting #12 - May 10, 2015

Present: 7.

Facilitators: Marianne and Mandy

Recorder: Samuel

1. Marianne opened the meeting by reading the Mission and Vision statements and the group norms.
2. Introductions. Questions were asked by a new member about the nature and organization of the group, and the story of how it was formed before the lockout.
3. Samuel summarized the minutes from the previous meeting.
4. Committee Reports.
 - I. Internal: A motion was put forward to open a "club" bank account at Affinity Credit Union, at the Broadway Avenue Branch in Saskatoon. Signing Authorities were proposed to be Robert Clipperton, Sarina Gersher, and Tracey Mitchell. Actions to require two signatures. Discussion and clarifications followed. The motion was then moved by Sarina, and seconded by Samuel. The motion passed unanimously, and was signed by all present. Robert Clipperton will open the account.
 - II. External: The committee has not yet met to discuss and make a recommendation about the city's proposed Transit Advisory committee. Stephan clarified that the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation has not yet dealt with this item, and so we have more time to take a position. Added to the External Committee's "to-do" list for the next month.
 - III. Online: a flowchart of committee structures has been created, and will be posted on the website.
5. Cameron made a report on 10 Days for Transit: the event was successful in getting a positive conversation started and attracting media attention to the issue of transit in Saskatoon. Cameron commented, in particular, on his day-long ride with Phil Tank, the Star-Phoenix columnist. Samuel noted, from speaking with Charlie Clark, that City Council has been taking notice, and is impressed by the organizing efforts of citizens speaking up. Next meeting's agenda will have a debrief report from 10 Days for Transit.
6. Meeting with Saskatoon Transit: Sarina noted that interim director Trevor Bell has been receptive and helpful in trying to maintain continuity of contact between BRS and the outgoing/incoming Marketing Managers. Discussion items from the last CoS meeting were summarized (note the minutes from this meeting are now available on the BRS website). Agenda items proposed for this month's CoS meeting included:
 - Following up on Councillor Loewen's request for a report on how much funding would be needed for a perfectly functional transit system

- How would Saskatoon Transit use private money from the P3 project funding model proposed by the federal government?
- What is the replacement plan for the bus stop/shelter at Confederation?
- The issue of confusing temporary redirection signs at bus stops in the Montgomery neighbourhood. Mandy suggested including maps on the signs for redirecting stops.
- More information was suggested for bus stop signs in general: stickers could be used to cheaply show arrival times or frequency. What is the replacement/improvement strategy for these signs?

Sidenote: Mandy suggested that, if time permits, it would be useful to summarize our BRS minutes online for those who do not have time to read them fully. Marianne is already doing this for the CoS meeting minutes.

7. Active Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Committee: Sarina made a report, and will post a powerpoint presentation. An event with Pop-up booths took place on May 9. Mandy noted that it was hard to find information on this event - the marketing could be improved. Sarina will pass this on to the planning department. There will be a public consultation May 23 at River Landing from 10am – 4pm. Also, a Stakeholder Workshop will be held on Saturday June 20, and we will need 4-5 people from BRS to attend a full-day workshop. Committee members have been invited by email to attend.
8. Discussion on lobbying governments and taking positions - the following items came up:
 - Stephan suggests urging the City to use goal-oriented funding: to set goals and determine how much money is needed, and then to award funding accordingly.
 - Samuel noted that we have several channels of communication: our monthly meetings with the City of Saskatoon, Standing Policy agenda items, and making presentations to City Council.
 - Cameron suggested that even if transit topics do not come up directly on council or committee agendas, we can use related topics to turn the conversation toward transit.
 - Cameron and Marianne suggested working more closely with the USSU, maintaining communication and partnership.
 - Mandy volunteered to contact Ryan Walker, a professor of urban planning, about involvement or making a presentation at a BRS meeting.
 - Stephan pointed out that Ontario allows development levy charges to be used to fund public transit, while Saskatchewan does not. The CoS recently asked the province to change the Planning and Development act to allow emergency services to be included in levies, but didn't ask about public transit. The group agreed this should be pursued further: Stephan will draft an "ask"/presentation document.
 - Marianne noted that there are two separate topics we need to discuss: (1) how do we go about lobbying? And (2) what specifically do we want to ask for? These should be separate agenda items at subsequent meetings.
 - The group agreed that at least one of these two topics ("what?" and "how?") should be on the agenda for each month, so that we can have substantive discussions, continue to explore and define our positions, and ramp up our specificity as we get closer to elections, whether federal, municipal, or provincial.

9. "We Are Cities" events: Meewasin is hosting this national agenda item from Cities for People. Mandy and Sarina will facilitate a roundtable discussion on June 11 from 6-8:30pm at the Meewasin Valley Centre, for 10-30 people. The focus will be on transit. More information can be found [here](#).
10. Tracey will co-facilitate next meeting. Samuel is willing to either co-facilitate or take minutes. Darren Hill has agreed to come to the June 14 meeting.