

Bus Riders of Saskatoon - Meeting Number 6 – November 23, 2014

Present: 8 plus one guest

1. Introductions

2.0 Guest – Charlie Clark

- acknowledgement that the current state of the system is not optimum
- the challenge is how to get from where we are to where we want to be
  - there is no one formula on how to get involved with the City since currently there is no Advisory Committee
- welcomes the formation of Bus Riders of Saskatoon to provide input that takes a broader look at the system rather than single user viewpoints
  - group may be in a position to gather input from people who aren't comfortable talking directly to the City
- questions
  - 1) the Budget process – Charlie explained how proposals come from the lowest level of administration through to Council for inclusion into the final budget – A question that would likely come from Council if there were to be more resources allocated to transit would be: “What specifically would more funds be spent on?”
  - 2) Environmental concerns: the most expensive way to improve transit infrastructure is to pay to construct roadways for more single occupant vehicles
- Charlie noted that new neighbourhoods are now being designed to be more transit friendly
  - feels that the ‘growing forward’ initiative is taking us in the right direction
  - some cultural change is happening
    - suggests that the right questions need to be asked
    - transportation planning is now part of overall future planning for the City
  - suggests that the 2015 budget will not have a lot of movement but that work of the group needs to be put into influencing the 2016 budget
  - important for BRoS to participate in the public fora that are available so that our positions/issues are put forward
  - feels we need to be prepared for us to react to proposals that are already out there such as designated bus lanes on College
  - increased ridership is important

- Summary: “We are getting there” and Bus Riders of Saskatoon can be a part of it.

### 3.0 Reports from Committees

- it was suggested that each committee could put together a draft of their own terms of reference and then bring it to the next meeting for ratification. After this a call could be made for others to be a part of these committees.

3.1 Steering Committee (Composition: one person from each committee plus a few others to make decisions between meetings if needed – Tracey, Cameron, Sarina, Mandy, Rob ): There has been no need for urgent action by the Steering Committee since the last meeting.

3.2 Internal: (to do with the internal structure and workings of the Bus Riders of Saskatoon) – Tracey, Robert C, Stephan – working on mission, vision, group norms, terms of reference for committees.

- 3.2.1 Group Norms: Tracey read out a statement used by the Anti-Poverty Coalition to begin their meetings. She also read out some sample bullets of possible group norms. Group liked the tone of the Anti-Poverty statement.
- additions – All are welcome to be part of the group, people are welcome to bring others into the group.
  - The Committee will present a more polished draft at a future meeting.
  - there was a discussion of how to keep the group focused on long term goals without losing sight of immediate aggravations

#### 3.2.2 Vision Statement:

- discussion of words to include in the statement. There was general support for the following words to be included: Right to effective transit, a natural choice, preferred, accessible, and reliable. Comfort should be way down the list. The Committee will work on a draft for the next meeting.

### 3.2.3 Mission Statement

- consensus that 'increasing ridership' should not be part of the mission statement although this could at some point be a strategy to achieve the mission

-“ Bus Riders of Saskatoon advocates for better bus service to achieve a better Saskatoon.”

- The draft mission, vision and group norms will be put up on the Facebook page and through Google Group 5 days before the next meeting.

3.3 External Committee: (to do with relationships between Bus Riders of Saskatoon and other groups or entities; ) – Cameron, Sarina, Lila

#### 3.3.1 Data Collection

- Committee has compiled all of the input that has been collected on Facebook, G-Mail and structure input at meetings. (See page six of the minutes for the compilation.)

- this data will be useful in determining what people are thinking and how to get our message out in the future

#### 3.3.2 Future Work of the Committee

- Work of the External Committee is to spread our message and reach out to other groups – users and non-users

- includes families, business owners, all levels of government, other groups like Saskatoon Cycles, environmental groups

- types of actions: letter writing, flyer distribution, information tables at other events, -spread our message face to face as much as we can

#### 3.3.3 Meeting with City Transit:

- there have been two meetings to date with STS officials

- Minutes will be posted. Regular meetings would be second Wednesday of every month.

- Decision of the group was that we have one consistent representative for these meetings and two rotating ones. Sarina has been designated to be the consistent

representative. Two members have volunteered to attend the next meeting. It is important that we have a full complement of three group members at each meeting.

- it was brought to our attention by the Marketing Manager that we can't legally hand out leaflets on buses or in the bus malls as these are private property. It was suggested that the Committee get more information on just what city bylaws exist which would direct/restrict our activities.

#### 3.3.4 Outreach

- Committee plans to meet with Saskatoon Cycles to discuss how they have organized to be effective and how the two groups can work together.

3.4 Online Committee: (role is to guide and enhance our online presence) Q.

Members – Nicole, Samuel, Marianne - no representative was able to be present but a report was sent.

#### 3.4.1 Website

- issues –there has been some difficulty in posting material to the website – this is being worked on

- committee wants to be sure that content posted has the endorsement of the majority of Bus Riders of Saskatoon - discussion - Bus Riders of Saskatoon Website – should be the go to page for information on and about Bus Riders of Saskatoon – (information about the organization, how to contact us, when our meetings are) should be room for 'editorial comment' so that people can put up comment without having to represent the group.

- suggestion that the website could provide a place for people to put categorized comments

- suggestion that a goal should be to increase number of hits and increase amount of time spent on the site

#### 3.4.2 Other

- there is a group starting a twitter group – the Committee will be meeting with them

#### 4.0 Business Arising from Previous Meetings:

##### 4.1 Committee Membership

- it was agreed that we should have the terms of reference, roles and responsibilities of the committees fleshed out before we put out a call for more volunteers to serve on these committees.
- such a call could be put out on Facebook and using Google Groups.

##### 4.2 Testing the New Transit Information System

- those members of Bus Riders of Saskatoon who participated in this should send their comments to Sarina who will provide a compilation to City Transit.

#### 5.0 Time and Date of Next Meeting

- Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 1:00, hopefully at the Food Bank
- Facilitators: Mandy, Cameron.

Row Labels	Count of Topic	Sum of Facebook Comments	Sum of Facebook Likes
Negative	145	705	769
Call to Action Suggestion	20	85	162
Lockout	15	133	165
Communication	14	28	36
Reliability	12	118	57
Leadership	12	66	40
Routes	8	3	10
Frequency	7	8	17
Planning	6	40	110
General Information	5	35	31
Cost	5	12	12
Bus Shelters	5	1	15
Funding	5	10	29
Driving Concerns	4	59	10
Repair/Broken	4	11	14
Accessibility	3		
Bus Lanes	2	2	7
Community Outreach	2	8	15
Environmental	2		
Safety	2	16	8
Ridership	2		
Efficiency	2		
Budget	2		
Essential Service	1	50	9
Less Bus Stops	1		
New Buses	1	12	0
Parking Enforcement	1		
Press Release	1	8	22
Support for Workers	1		
Positive	10	24	195
Communication	1	0	10
Experience	9	24	185
Positive/Negative	1	0	4
Leadership	1	0	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>968</b>