

Bus Riders of Saskatoon - January 10, 2016 meeting minutes

Present: Michael, Cameron, Tracey, Kurt, Mylyne, Sarina, Lila, Dan, Diane, Mandy, Robert, Stephan

Cameron read the mission, vision and group norm & we did a round of introductions

Committee Updates

Internal: No update

Finance: No transactions – Balance of \$445.02

Online: Making some tweaks to headers and pages, have added info about fare increase to the website. Stephan will be meeting with Brian H from Better Transit YXE about transitioning their twitter account over to Bus Riders' online committee. There was a suggestion that when updates are made to the website, that they

External: no updates

Discussion and Future Activities

City of Saskatoon meetings:

- Peter suggested having a new subcommittee to work on overall strategy for meetings with the City of Saskatoon/Saskatoon Transit. He'll attend a meeting with City of Saskatoon and we will table the rest of the discussion until the next meeting he can attend and until after he has attended a meeting with Saskatoon Transit.
- Meetings have changed to the third Monday of the month from 4:00 to 5:00 pm based on Jim McDonald's schedule, rather than the second Wednesday.
- Peter, Kurt and Sarina will attend the next meeting with Saskatoon Transit.
- A question was asked about whether people can/should write to City Council or to transit as individuals and the answer was a euphoric yes! 😊
- Stephan, Lila and Tracey attended the last meeting with Saskatoon Transit. Stephan gave a brief overview of what was discussed at the last meeting.
 - Options for service to North Industrial area were discussed
 - There was some discussion about the plan for piloting increased frequency of service on 8th Street
 - There was discussion about signage on the buses including adding signs inside the buses so that people know they're on the right route, ensuring that new buses have signage on all three sides, and ensuring that scrolling signs are not

too lengthy so that you can see which bus it is on the display more regularly than the messaging

- Sarina requested questions for the next meeting :
 - How do the folks at Saskatoon Transit feel about the fare increase and how it will impact ridership? What's their communication plan to help people ensure they are getting the most affordable option available to them? Could there be a flowchart on the website to help people figure out the most affordable option?
 - Why are annual passes for seniors only available to purchase from June to June? What's the rationale for why you can't get next month's pass before the end of the month?
 - Follow-up about the adult student at Nutana who wanted to be able to pay high school student fares. What was the resolution?
 - There was discussion about the need to add shelters to the transit terminal on campus. This has been discussed at meetings with Transit in the past and they said that it was University jurisdiction. At the next meeting with Transit, Sarina will ask who the best people would be to contact at the University about this and the students in the group are encouraged to pressure the University to make this change.

Fare Increase Details

- Fare increases will come in to place on Feb. 1.
- At the meeting where fare increases were discussed, most councillors acknowledged that the way decisions are made about transit is quite different than how decisions are made about any other service eg. Leisure Centres were not being well used, so they decreased fares

Agenda items for next election:

- It was proposed that the provincial election be discussed at the next meeting and it was suggested that it be posted on Facebook by the next meeting facilitators that we'll be discussing this so that people can raise discussions.
- **Robert will contact Pat Atkinson to ask her to speak to Bus Riders at our next meeting about how to lobby provincial election candidates and parties about transit issues**
- **Mandy and Stephan will work on an email to City Councillors asking them about what transit issues could be raised in the context of the provincial election**

Transit Safety Subcommittee:

- There will be a meeting on January 11 at noon of Bus Riders and several partner organizations to discuss hosting a community conversation regarding safety on buses.

Possible spring event/campaign:

- Cam raised a question about whether we want to do another 10 Days for Transit or similar campaign this spring. It was suggested that we maybe wait until after the Transit Safety event, and also that Cam, or anyone else, hoping to hold an event or campaign make a proposal to a future meeting regarding what they want to do, and what they would need from the group
- There was also some general discussion about strategy, vision and how change happens.

Next meeting: February 7th at 1:30 pm instead of Feb. 14th because of Family Day long weekend