

Bus Riders of Saskatoon

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2016 – 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Present: Taylor, Stephan, Cameron (Chairperson), Peter, Robert, Mandy
Guest: Kamil Rogowski - Saskatoon Cycles Advocacy Committee

1. Meeting open

- Mission, vision, and group norms – reviewed by Cam
- Introductions

2. Liveable YXE Report Card Initiative

- Kamil Rogowski presented on an initiative to bring forward issues in the upcoming civic election
- The focus will be on 6 theme areas (these themes are not set in stone; discussion with stakeholders may result in minor changes to these themes or how they are worded): Environment, Health, Active Transportation, Public Transportation, Equity and Accessibility, Urbanism
- Candidates in the election would be presented with a questionnaire/report card
 - For each theme, there would be a position statement, two (or three, could vary between different themes) questions requiring a yes/no answer, and a space for comments on how promises will be realized
- Kamil invited Bus Riders to formulate the two public transportation themed questions for the questionnaire
 - He is willing to assist in formulating the two questions and would like a draft by June 1st

- Kamil provided a sample question for example: “Will you support a shift from the current coverage model that provides low quality service for everyone to a quality rapid transit model that provides high quality service for the majority?”
- The group agreed to participate by being a part of the questionnaire/report card initiative
 - The Steering Committee will work on the draft questions with Kamil and have them ready for finalization at our June meeting
 - We will advise Kamil at that time if we are interested in participating in the Liveable YXE initiative beyond the Report Card
- Kamil presented a likely time line for the Report Card and the Election
 - Mid-July – initial message to candidates
 - September 26 – deadline for responses from candidates
 - October 5 – Report cards should be complete and ready for distribution
 - October 11 – press release with report card results and announcement of All Candidates Forum
 - October 12 – All Candidates Forum
 - October 26 – municipal election

3. Committee updates

3.1. Online Committee:

- A discussion took place regarding the use of the Facebook Page and the importance of likes and comments in increasing the likelihood of Bus Riders posts finding their way into a Facebook news feed.

3.2. Internal Committee:

- Financial Report
 - After expenses for YXE Let's Talk, balance remains of \$325.02

3.3. External Committee:

- Let's Talk YXE
 - The event at the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre was quieter than the event at the university as there was less walk by traffic although there was a large group from the Open Door Society
 - Saskatoon Transit has been very positive and supportive of the initiative
 - Task group is currently waiting on data analysis
 - Once the results in they will be presented to Saskatoon Transit, Saskatoon Police, and Crime Stoppers
 - unsure at this point if there will be a direct report to Council
 - likely will do a press release
 - suggestions for another time
 - a condensed version like the one at the University was more effective than the all-day version at the Friendship Centre
 - Perhaps the project would have benefited from more advance publicity

4. Meeting with Saskatoon Transit

- Cam will be in his new role as the team lead beginning with the May 20th meeting
 - Attending the next meeting will be Cam, Taylor and maybe Peter

- Discussion of possible topics
 - What are the plans for alternate service along detour routes during this summer's road construction on Broadway Avenue?
 - What criteria are used to determine the circumstances when a service alert will be posted?
 - What role does Saskatoon Transit see for Bus Riders regarding consultation prior to service changes
 - There is a feeling that at times in the past false steps could have been avoided if BRS had been consulted earlier

- Peter has put together a tracking document which itemizes all the issues that we have brought forward as these meetings with Saskatoon Transit and the progress that has been made with any of these
 - It was agreed that this list should be available to Bus Riders through Google Drive
 - It was agreed that this document could be shared with Saskatoon Transit
 - The document is available at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11xZUhaNQ7F0CLttryq-nXq69YwttKspZ4gOe3czF3pk/edit#gid=1547391327>

5. Election activities

- It was agreed that rather than attempting to organize our own candidates forum on transit related issues, we should encourage Bus Riders to attend their own neighbourhood forums and pose transit related issues
- It was suggested that a standard question or questions could be developed and we could use Facebook to encourage Bus Riders to attend each forum and be sure the question(s) is asked

- Questions could be general such as “What do you think should be done to improve public transit in Saskatoon” or more specific such as “If elected would you commit in voting to increase the transit budget?”
- If a particular forum was has a specific theme, perhaps specific questions could be formulated
- It was suggested that perhaps the best way to proceed would be to form an ‘election task group’ to steer our activity related to the civic election campaign
 - This should be decided upon at the next meeting

6. Summer Meeting Schedule

- It was agreed that there should be meetings in both June and July
 - A July meeting would give us a chance to review the initial impact of the July 1st schedule and route changes, particularly along 8th Street
 - A decision on whether or not to have a meeting in August should be made at the July meeting

6. Next Meeting

- Sunday, June 12 at 1:30
- Cam will put out a call for a volunteer to facilitate but will act as facilitator if no one else comes forward
 - Cam will book the room at Brainsport
 - Cam will invite Councillor Paulson to the next meeting. If she is unable to make it, Cam will invite Councillor Davies.