

Bus Riders of Saskatoon – Meeting Number 8 – January 11, 2015

Present: 9 present

1. Introductions

2. Agenda: Additions to the circulated agenda to add to 'Discussion':

- Presentation to Standing Committee on Transportation
- Future meetings with City Councillors
- Need for information on the website regarding the 'economic case for public transit'.

3. Review of Minutes of Meeting # 7 – December 14, 2014 including Business Arising

- Robert summarized the minutes of the meeting (note these have been posted on the www.busridersofsaskatoon.ca website).

4. Committee Reports:

4.1 Internal Committee:

- no specific actions to report - goal is to get processes established and written down
- posting the date of the meeting – should be the facilitator that does this – perhaps mention that the room is accessible although best to give prior notice to facilitators to be sure that elevator is operable.
- internal committee should put together a checklist of role of recorder (running draft by steering committee)
- final Bus Riders of Saskatoon meeting minutes should be sent to Online Committee to put on Website, cc. Mandy for archiving, online committee will put PDF link on Facebook. Timeline for completion of minutes one week after meeting.
- Tracey suggested that in order to put forth an action or attend meetings on behalf of Bus Riders that there needs to be some set criteria – e.g. Having attended a meeting in the last 4 months, attended the previous meeting
- longer term goal – skill sharing – Q what do people want? Tutorials on use of Facebook, Google docs and Google group

4.2 Online Committee:

- There is a need for a person from the Online Committee to serve on the Steering Committee.
- Stephan willing to help get more content up on the website and volunteered to join the committee
- Marianne reported that they have implemented measures to make website more secure, and that Rob has assisted in making site more user friendly
 - discussion of rules – consensus that opinions can be expressed without them being endorsed by Bus Riders. – it should be clearly marked as opinion but the more the comment the better
 - would be good to add a ‘comment section’ to the opinions posted
- Marianne will use Facebook to invite people to submit content for posting
- members should e-mail online committee if there are transit related items that could be posted
- Sarina will send Marianne links that have been posted on FB page
 - concern expressed that links do get taken down – would be good if screen shots were taken – Mandy has volunteered to do this

- suggested that the more hits and Google searches are done, the more we come up on searches – individuals could make our page their home page
- Marianne suggested that we should put a link on the Facebook page whenever we put something new on the website
- Stephan noted that the more ‘known’ a site is, the less likely it will be flagged by security software as a possibly risky site.
- Marianne reported that the committee will be meeting shortly and will put together a draft terms of reference

4.3 External Committee

- Sarina presented terms of reference for the committee:
 - the External Committee is responsible for coordinating or assigning roles for the following tasks:
 - Media representatives (including non-urgent/time sensitive media releases, television, radio and press interviews)
 - Maintaining community connections with other community organizations and with community members

- Representing Bus Riders of Saskatoon at monthly meetings with management of Saskatoon Transit
- Community actions

- Cameron has been added as a media contact
- Mairi will join this committee
- Sarina reported that Bus Riders was included by Global in their coverage of top news stories in Saskatoon for 2014 – this resulted in Sarina in a 5 second video clip

5. Discussion Items:

5.1 Presentation to Standing Policy Committee on Transportation

- Robert reported on the agenda for the meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation to be held on January 12, 2015
 - Management will be presenting a report to the Committee on follow up to recommendations arising out of an Urban Transit Conference held in January 2014
 - Robert distributed a draft copy of a possible presentation that he had written in consultation with several members of Bus Riders
 - Robert agreed to make the necessary arrangements with City Hall to address the committee and to deliver the presentation

Motion: To accept draft statement as circulated (see Appendix at end of minutes) -
Carried

5.2 Meeting with Management of Saskatoon Transit on Wednesday, January 14, 2015

- Sarina will attend this meeting as the permanent representative with Mandy and Stephan attending as rotating representatives
- Sarina will present an updated statistical compilation of Facebook and other comments that she presented to Bus Riders at the last meeting
- Topics suggested for discussion at this or further meetings were:
 - service concerns in Evergreen and Montgomery Place as described on Facebook
 - ramifications on public transit of the proposed two new bridges
 - the parameters used by Saskatoon Transit on how they determine the costing of service enhancements and how they decide which of these are financially viable
 - extension of week-end hours

- Sarina asked for feedback on how these meetings with Saskatoon Transit was working with the partially rotating delegation
 - feedback was positive
- Next meeting should be on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 4:00
 - Diane will attend – Sarina will send out an e-mail to call for one more member
 - it was suggested that those attending should be Bus Riders who have attended the monthly meetings (or whatever other mechanism is determined by the internal committee – see Tracey’s suggestion above).

5.3 Joint Action Proposal for March

- some members of the Steering Committee met with representatives of other community groups to discuss joint actions in the future
- there was a consensus within the group that Bus Riders should participate in such joint actions
- the Steering Committee will update the group at the next meeting

5.4 Meetings with Individual City Councillors

Motion: That we invite City Councillors individually to meet with us at our monthly meetings. Carried.

- Tracey cautioned that we should have a strategy in place to guide us in these meetings
- discussion of the logistics and strategy of these meetings – suggested that Mairin Loewen be invited to the meeting in February
- our goal should be to further educate ourselves on alternatives for transit service improvements and to help us work towards a service charter or asking package for the next Civic Election in 2017

5.5 Better Transit YXE

- the Online Committee will come forth with suggestions on how to ensure this Twitter Account is maintained in the long term

6. Next Meeting: Sunday February 8, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:30

- Facilitator – Cameron/Tracey
- Recorder – Stephan or Tracey

Action Items Arising from the Discussion:

Internal Committee:

- Put together a checklist for roles of the Recorder and Facilitator to follow
- Develop criteria for someone to be allowed to bring forth an action for approval or to attend a meeting as a representative of Bus Riders
- Robert to complete the minutes of the meeting as per guidelines

Online Committee:

- to put forth a name to sit on the Steering Committee
- to develop a draft terms of reference for presentation at the next meeting
- add a 'comments' section so people can react to opinion pieces put up on the Website
- the group meeting minutes will come with Bus Riders website blog link.
- something new should be posted on the website every week
- add Stephan to the committee
- Marianne will use Facebook to invite people to submit content for posting on Website
- Sarina will e-mail Marianne links that have already been posted on Facebook. For archival purposes, Mandy will take screen shots of this content as web content tends to be taken down.
- bring forth suggestions for continuance of the Better Transit YXE Twitter account

External Committee:

- Sarina will send out an e-mail to ask for persons to express interest in attending the February 11, 2015 meeting with Saskatoon Transit

Cameron/Tracey: Put up an event page on Facebook for Sunday, February 8 meeting

Cameron/Tracey: Invite Councillor Mairin Loewen to attend this meeting

Appendix: Presentation to Standing Committee on Transportation

City of Saskatoon – Standing Policy Committee on Transportation – January 12, 2015

Presentation by Bus Riders of Saskatoon – Re: Management Response to Letter from University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability

Good morning,

City Councillors and members of city administration:

My name is Robert and I am here to speak on behalf of Bus Riders of Saskatoon. I must say, we are somewhat disappointed in the contents of the report. We are pleased that the Growing Forward Shaping Saskatoon planning initiative does focus on improving public transit as a key area for action in the future. We are concerned however that the response to so many of the recommendations related to public transit is only that they will be addressed by Growing Forward. We feel it is the responsibility of the Standing Committee on Transportation and on City Council as a whole to champion improved transit right now.

Two Recommendations put forward in the letter were not addressed:

1) Lead by example: We encourage all Councillors and those advising you on transit matters to ensure that you have personal experience using the transit system. We feel you need to experience the challenges faced by Bus Riders – getting route and schedule information, exploring fare options, catching the bus, riding on the vehicle itself, and completing transfers. Councillors make decisions for the whole city. You need to have first hand knowledge not only of the challenges faced by the citizens in your ward, but in other parts of the City as well. We know from your comments that some of you have this experience but we aren't sure that all of you have.

2) Conduct a market analysis to determine at what cost people will change their transportation choices: If we are going to increase ridership, the Saskatoon Transportation System needs to attract new riders. It should be realized that all of those who have to take the bus are already taking the bus. The system needs to attract those who currently choose not to take the bus. We suggest that you undertake this marketing study but enlarge it to capture not only cost, but to explore and quantify other factors which enter in to people's transportation choices and how these barriers can be eliminated.

A third recommendation is that the City collaborate with and consider input from community organizations that are focused on improving transportation in the city: We appreciate the ongoing relationship Bus Riders of Saskatoon is building with Saskatoon Transit Management.

We would like to see the establishment of a formal Transit Advisory Committee with a wider representation to reflect a growing need for public transportation in our growing city.

[See http://download.isiglobal.ca/saskatoon/archive_2015-01-12-tr.mp4.html to see the presentation to the Committee on January 12, 2015].