

Bus Riders of Saskatoon – Minutes - Meeting #11 – April 12, 2015

Present: 14

Facilitators: Samuel and Cameron Recorder: Robert

1. Cameron opened the meeting by reading the Mission and Vision statements and the Group Norms
2. Introductions
3. Robert summarized the minutes of the March 8, 2015 meeting – #10

4. Committees

External - nothing specific that won't be brought up under other agenda items

Internal - no specific actions

Online – involved with the website for 10 Days for Transit

- the terms of reference have been completed and will be added to the policy document

5. Other Business

A. Active Transportation Plan - Stakeholder Advisory Committee

- Sarina read a letter she received inviting her to be a member of this committee as a representative of Bus Riders of Saskatoon

- the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) aims to help shape changes in infrastructure and support programs that will encourage all of us to use active forms of transportation more often

- the Stakeholder Advisory Committee will bring together stakeholders representing various sectors

- as our representative, Sarina would engage with the project consultant, key City staff members, and other committee members and provide input throughout the process. As well she would collect input and raise awareness of the ATP among Bus Riders

- Sarina noted that since the invitation required an early response, the Steering Committee has already given approval for her to sit on the Committee as our representative

- Consensus: To approve participation in the Stakeholder Advisory Committee with Sarina as a our representative

- it was cautioned that this committee should not to be confused with a proposed Transit Advisory Committee
 - it is anticipated that recommendations for the terms of reference for the Transit Advisory Committee are likely to come forward to the Standing Committee on Transportation as early as their May meeting and that we should be prepared to react to these recommendations
 - **Action** - the External Committee will report back at our next meeting with some thoughts on what we think this committee should look like so we are ready to react when the management report is brought to the Transportation Committee

B. Monthly Meeting with Saskatoon Transit

- Sarina reported that Alysha Hill is leaving Saskatoon Transit and that the April 15th meeting will be her last - her replacement is to be determined
- Lee Thomas, Project Manager for the growing Forward! Shaping Saskatoon (*Growth Plan*) initiative – has also left her position – Lesley Anderson will be replacing her
- April 15 meeting -- Mandy and Dianne will participate in next meeting

Questions - 1) During the time when the University Bridge is undergoing repairs, what is the plan for the various routes?

- 2) What are the plans for maintenance and beautification of the downtown bus mall?

- 3) Are there any plans in place for route/schedule changes beginning July 1st? What is the process for determining where changes are made? Is there any potential for Bus Riders to participate in this process.

- a member questioned the value of these meetings
 - the member recounted past meetings between citizens and Saskatoon Transit which were very positive but that nothing was ever done to make improvements
 - the member suggested the need for some follow-up to be sure that there is progress on the issues addressed
- another member suggested that since we will be dealing with new people there is an opportunity to have a conversation about process – how do we decide how our concerns are addressed and how can we track what progress has been made?

C. Ten Days for Transit (April 14 – 24):

- Samuel reported that this was a coalition of different groups - the Downtown Business Improvement District, University of Saskatchewan Students' Union, two City Councillors, Better Transit YXE, BusRiders of Saskatoon

- the aim is to encourage discussion of public transit in Saskatoon and to raise the profile of public transit by encouraging people to try out the bus system
 - Community leaders will be challenged to ride the bus
- the Online Committee is managing the website (www.10daysfortransit.ca/), the Twitter feed (@10Days4Transit) and a Facebook event page (<https://www.facebook.com/10days4transit>)
- there has already been a fair amount of media coverage
- April 24 – Fill the bus event at City Hall at 12:00pm – The City will be bringing in an old bus and the goal will be to see how many riders can fit into a bus
- Bus Riders has been asked to provide bus buddies to help new riders maneuver the bus system during this period
 - no specific commitment to this but want people to be available in case there are requests – could be online, on the phone or in person – a list of possible ‘buddies’ was compiled - contact would be through the 10 Days for Transit website - will be put on our Facebook page to contact 10days4transit@gmail.com page
- **Consensus – that Bus Riders’ participation in this coalition is a good idea**

D. Bank Account

- 10 Days for Transit has collected some money and it needs to be managed through a bank account
- Agreed – to look into setting up an account for Bus Riders at Affinity Credit Union – Robert will look into what documentation is needed by Affinity – will research other options if Affinity is not fee free

E. Better Transit YXE: Discussion of Successor Organization Role

- concern expressed that we could not keep up the quality of their website posts
- perhaps BetterTransit YXE website could be kept as an archive with a redirect to our website
- good to keep the twitter feed as they have already established a presence
 - twitter feed – could remain as a sharing forum – would need a person designated to respond if needed – volume – has been up and down – perhaps Brian would be willing to retain admin rights for this
- concern expressed that we don’t overreach our capacity by trying to keep up all of their initiatives

Consensus: Bus Riders of Saskatoon will determine the best way to archive and keep record of BetterTransit YXE’s website, while redirecting traffic to Bus Riders of Saskatoon’s website. The Twitter account will be managed by BetterTransitYXE for the remainder of April. The Online

Committee will manage the account until our May meeting. At that point a decision will be made on who can manage the Twitter account (as someone should always be able to respond)

F. Adopt a Stop:

- John Deworitz from Long Range Planning, City of Saskatoon, has asked for support from Bus Riders for the Adopt A Stop Program
- volunteers would take 'stewardship' over a bus stop - about 3 people per stop
- supplies would be provided and a coordinator would provide guidance
- would like us to endorse the concept before it goes to council
- would like Bus Riders to take on a few stops

Questions:

- 1) What is the cost? Is this a good use of funds?
A. Cost would vary depending on how it would be promoted and branded. The cost could range from \$5,000 - \$10,000 depending on their marketing strategy.
- 2) How difficult would it be to get supplies?
A. Supplies would be delivered directly to 'partners'. This would allow for a relationship to be established between program coordinator and partners.
- 3) Is this off-loading of work onto the public?
A. No – just a way of developing stewardship and community involvement
- 4) What is meant by a 'stop' for the purposes of this program?
A. Assumed that what is being referred to are stops with benches and /or shelters

Discussion:

- there are 1400 stops in total (based on meeting minutes from Saskatoon Transit meetings)
- there are many problems with current stops: there are signs without a route number on them; few trash cans; there are benches where there are no longer stops; there is at least one shelter that is no longer on the side of the street where the bus runs - does Saskatoon Transit know what it has?
- concern presented about taking responsibility for snow shoveling – hard to get there before snow gets packed down
- city has responsibility for snow cleaning and removal but there seems to be some issues of coordination within city departments
- is this an example of offloading what should be a core city responsibility?
- getting rid of litter should be a prime concern - some stops have waste receptacles – facilities and fleet management maintain these

Consensus: We will promote the program within our group but we won't be an official partner

G. Discussion of BRS Capacity

- **Consensus - need to make a call out for greater committee participation as some key people may be leaving Saskatoon within the next few months**
- suggestion that the online committee set out our committee structure on the website and then make a call on Facebook for new members to hopefully generate gmail responses
 - Marianne will look after this posting
 - Robert – will update the 'policy document' defining the Terms of Reference for committees

H. Business for Next Meeting - #12 -- May 10, 2015

- City Councillor invitation
 - First – Darren Hill – Stephen will contact
 - Second – Pat Lorje – Sherri will contact if Darren is unable to attend
 - Third – Troy Davies – to be contacted with neither Darren or Pat are unable to attend
- Discussion Items for Next Meeting
 - lobbying senior governments to increase funding for public transit
 - ways to sustain and increase growth in Bus Riders
- Facilitators – Marianne and Mandy
- Recorder - Samuel