

Bus Riders of Saskatoon - February 7, 2016 meeting minutes

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

Presentation from Pat Atkinson

Pat addressed our concerns on advocating for Saskatoon Bus Riders. As an early civil society activist, turned politician and now again a civil society activist on the international scene, she addressed our question from 2 points of view:--as a former activist and as a former politician.

Influencing Politicians as an Activist:

1. Be clear on what you want. Focus on one big ask and what you want the politician to commit to.
2. Who is your spokesperson? Limit speaking to one or maybe two people so that you can deliver the main message clearly and succinctly. [At this point Pat volunteered a Power Point presentation to send to Sarina.]
3. Bring a briefing sheet. This will be a one-page document that leads off with the Ask/recommendation, followed by a **brief** background.
4. Limit your session to a half-hour maximum.
5. Follow up with a note of thanks that includes a recap of the meeting and the commitment that the politician made. It is important that this commitment be in writing.

There are 14 provincial constituencies in Saskatoon area. Ideally, BRS would have a matching member to contact the politician in his/her constituency.

There needs to be a consistent message going to all constituencies, and as a politician/cabinet minister, Pat was impressed by the non-partisan advocates.

Q&A

- One priority at a time. Pick a priority
 - You can come back year after year with one new ask
 - It was a good strategy to pick one topic and work on that ask.
 - The next year you can work down the list of priorities. But one at a time.
 - Diabetes Association and Firefighters were good at this
 - Follow your priority until you get it, only then go down the priority ladder
- Asking for changes in a provincial act that affects municipalities?
 - What are the cities saying about this? (From the point of a cabinet minister)
 - We understand there are municipalities speaking to the provincial government to change the P&D Act. We would like the government to also consider transportation as one of those factors.

- Although this doesn't cost money, influential characters (i.e. developers) will have something to say about this.
 - Politicians listen to this.

- What about advocacy prior to and post to election?
 - Get in the door to meet the new elected officials right after they are elected
 - It is good practice to get our members to meet their elected officials whenever

- Questionnaires
 - Commitments are not made during these questionnaires. As such, they may not be the best use of our time.

- Relationships are key

- Understand the details first
 - i.e. what's this going to cost me as a developer? (a couple hundred dollars? Thousands?)
 - We need good research before we go
 - E.g. Transit levy would probably be cheaper than a fire station

- If we want to prep a strategic plan, Pat would come back to offer comments
 - We should follow up
 - Post election, once MLA's organize their office
 - In the Fall they introduce legislation, in the Spring they pass it.

Committee Updates

Internal: No update

Finance: No transactions – Balance of \$445.02 (from January minutes)

Online: Charges for maintaining ownership of the domain name have been automatically made by Nicole. Cameron will contact Nicole to ask for ownership transfer to an ongoing member of the finance committee and offering reimbursement for the cost of 2016 domain name ownership. Stephan will be meeting with Brian H from Better Transit YXE about transitioning their twitter account over to Bus Riders' online committee.

External: no updates. Lila will be attending the CoS Transportation Policy Committee meeting on February 9.

Discussion and Future Activities

City of Saskatoon meetings:

- Sarina, Peter and Kurt attended the January meeting.
- Since Peter attended the last meeting with Transit, we will table the discussion about a subcommittee until the next BRS meeting he can attend.
- Marianne, Lila and Sarina will attend the next meeting with Saskatoon Transit on February 22.
- Sarina requested questions for the next meeting :

City of Saskatoon Growth Plan Summit Meeting:

Sarina announced this meeting—details are on our Facebook page. It will be held on March 14, starting at 2:00pm and ongoing that afternoon and evening.

Transit Safety Subcommittee:

- There will be another meeting to finalize plans for an event in March community conversation regarding safety on buses.

Next meeting: March 13 at 1:30 pm. -- Location to be determined. Cameron and Lila will co-facilitate. Cameron will request a note-taker before the next meeting.

Mandy, Stephan and Marianne will do research on the Development Act in preparation for our Provincial Ask.