



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL WORK SESSION
Wednesday March 26, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.
City Hall Conference Room A

The Safe Routes to School held a work session on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Conference Room A

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Christina Westfall, Chair brought the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 a.m.

- II. **ROLL CALL:** Christina Westfall, Chair and Traffic & Safety Representative, Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer, Police Commissioner John Golumb, Police Commission Representative, Jonathan Bailey, Traffic & Safety Committee representative and Detective Rebecca Hester, Police Department Representative. Also present was Kirsten Barton, Parent.
Absent were Supt. Robert Lister, Councilor Ned Reynolds and Rebecca Emerson.

- III. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Children's Day Event** – We're here today to get a plan for what we'll do at Children's Day. We are committed to Children's Day, May 3rd, but do not know if there is a bike rally yet or whether Kiwanis is behind it. Barbara Masser gave us the option of either the Isles of Shoals Parking Lot, Pleasant St. Block Party or Fleet St. where the bike rally has been held and not sure they are having. Barbara Massar suggested that we have presence at the Block Party. The Chair stated we need to decide whether we want to set up a booth on Pleasant St. or on Fleet St. at the bike rally. After discussion it was decided not to be present at the Isles of Shoals parking lot, and was decided to be present at Fleet St. and perhaps we could have SABER back.
The Chair asked what could be done to get more people at the bike rally itself and would be nice to have locals come. The schools get flyers and maps of what is happening and where it's happening, advertised in the newspaper. It was suggested SRTS will be present on Children's Day, there will be a bike rally, giving away helmets.
Debbie Finnigan suggested stating who we are and this is what we are doing and have some form of literature to be given out mentioning the grants, what we have done and what we plan for future grants. Also suggested to have Public Works print out a map showing locations of things we have already done and a few ideas of what we are going to do through our Grant.

Jonathan Bailey suggested using the booth as an opportunity to talk to people tell everybody what we are doing and trying to do. It makes sense to have visibility on children's Day. The booth is our responsibility, a tent for sun is a good idea

The Chair stated we have two ideas, 1. Fleet Parking Lot and potentially working with SABER and 2. a booth on Pleasant St., it was suggested being in one spot and it was decided to use the Fleet Parking Lot.

Debbie Finnigan will ask John Corrigan if he has a banner that we could use. Debbie will look into having brochures printed and will ask John Corrigan if he has brochures for us. Will have Public Works help her with a map and things we are doing.

Jonathan Bailey will look into a donation of a bicycle for a raffle.

Debbie Finnigan stated that since we are a Committee formed by the City Council and do not have a budget we need to go through the Department of Public Works.

- B. Bike Rally** – Jonathan Bailey has some information about a bike rally he's trying to put together with some parents from Little Harbor School and to get our support. One of the elements is to try to do something in the spring and also in the fall and do it on a regular basis to get kids to ride. The idea for the rally is that we are trying to encourage kids to walk and ride to school and looking at a week long period where every school child gets a manifest with check off boxes and tasks to work with the parents and to get as many kids who are able to map the route out to walk or bike with their parents and keep track by checking off boxes. We do not want to make this complex and to make it fair. Bus kids can walk their loops before school, we want to make sure everybody plays if they want to. We want to get the parents involved with the route and traveling back and forth to school with the kids if they are too little and to supervise all of this. That we add a limited number of additional checkpoints to the manifest other than the schools. That parents will sign off on the manifest that their child(ren) rode as well as a transportation person at the school.

Jonathan Bailey will be meeting with Kirsten and Erika to work on the rally. It is important to measure accurately to be far when awarding prizes.

Donations or helmets, bicycles, and pedometers were discussed.

Rebecca Hester suggested checking with the City's Local Government Center as they may have pedometers as they are very much into Next Steps Program and Healthy Choices and they may have pedometers and they may be a good resource and be happy to participate and help out.

There was discussion of being fair to all students, whether they live close and have farther to walk/bike and if rain, double points for walk/bike in the rain.

The Chair will contact someone for St. Patrick's School, and has a couple of names for Dondero. Kirsten Barton will find someone for the Middle School.

The Chair suggested a checkpoint at Urban Forestry Center as no one will cross Rte. 1, but will cross at Elwyn Rd. to the Urban Forestry Center.

The Chair asked Jonathan Bailey to report back at the April 14th meeting with a progress report and Jonathan will work on the donation of the bicycle.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Children's Day Committee – The Chair asked for the Committee's thoughts on having a sub-committee, do we want to work on a committee level or break it down to another sub-committee when our committee is not that large to begin with. After discussion it was agreed not to have a sub-committee, but to work as a whole committee.

V. ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted

Elaine Boucas
Recording Secretary