



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday October 1, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.
City Hall Conference Room A

The Safe Routes to School Committee met on Wednesday, October 1, 2007 at 7:30 a.m. at City Hall Conference Room A.

- I. Call to Order:** Christina Westfall Chair brought the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 a.m.

- II. Roll Call:** Present were City Council Representatives Ken Smith, Chairman of the Traffic & Safety Committee and Councilor Chris Dwyer, Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer, Robert Lister, Superintendent of Schools and Clay Hayward, School Board representative, Christina Westfall, Traffic & Safety Representative. Also present was Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director.
Absent: Councilor Ned Raynolds, Detective Chris Cummings and Jonathan Bailey,

- III. Acceptance of the Minutes:**
As there was not a quorum, the minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting will be approved at the next meeting to be held on October 22, 2007.

- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A.** October 29, 2007 Information Meeting (7:00 p.m. at the Library, Committee to meet at 6:00 p.m.) – The Chair stated the purpose is to come up with some ideas to promote this meeting to release the results of the surveys and introduce this program to the community.
The Chair asked Debbie Finnigan to speak with John Corrigan to see if he is available to be present.
The Chair mentioned that at a previous meeting Councilor Raynolds suggested an ad in the Herald that we have the support of the City Council, Police Department, School Board, School Department and Traffic & Safety.
Councilor Dwyer suggested placing a written piece to appear in the Herald on the Opinion Page which would not cost us any money. Adam Leach of the Herald will give us coverage.
Debbie Finnigan suggested a Press Release and will work with Pat Remick and have it placed on the website as well.
Councilor Dwyer suggested the City Newsletter.

The Chair suggested the following for the informational meeting: the results of the School Surveys, John Corrigan to present an overview, discussion and question period.

Councilor Dwyer stated it would be nice to put in what we have asked for in the Grant so that people will have a sense of what we are doing.

Councilor Smith suggested the Agenda as follows: John Corrigan will explain the program, explanation of the Grant and the survey results, then a public discussion and question period.

Councilor Dwyer suggested if there are enough people to break up into small groups for public discussion. Flip charts are available if needed.

The Chair stated the need of a commitment from this Committee that they will be present.

The Chair feels the biggest issue will be safety and it was suggested that the Police Department be placed on the Agenda to address the safety issues after the survey results and before the public discussion.

Councilor Smith suggested either Capt. Janet Champlin or Deputy Police Chief Len DiSesa.

The Chair stated it is important to address the question that has been asked of her which has been why we chose the schools we did?

Ken Smith stated because the Middle School is about to go under construction and Woodbury Ave. is about to go under construction, the walking area and overall design will be addressed.

Councilor Dwyer suggested things like this that we already know are issues should be part of the presentation.

Clay Hayward suggested Debbie Finnigan bring pictures of new areas that are going to be constructed such as the path to Maplewood and walkway on Ocean Road, all the diagrams and the information that is in the CIP so that people will see visuals.

The meeting will take place at the Library in the Levenson Room beginning at 7:00 pm with members at the library at 6:00 pm.

Debbie Finnigan stated that the understanding of the National Survey and the reason that every school does the same survey is so that when they go back to the legislature saying we want more money or the same amount of funding, they can see a trend as the years go by, it is not necessarily by the school.

The Chair will have the information available by the October 29th meeting.

Councilor Dwyer stated that we do not know what is on the surveys and doesn't feel we should find out that night and suggested a meeting once the surveys are compiled.

A meeting was scheduled for October 22nd and Elaine will check to see if Conference Room A is available on that date.

Dr. Lister stated it will take a lot of education to parents about walking and biking to school.

It was suggested as a courtesy to invite Committee representatives from other communities in Rockingham County to the survey meeting to share information.

Councilor Dwyer asked if there was literature in quantity that we can have as a handout.

Steve Parkinson suggested checking the national site.

Debbie Finnigan will follow up: John Corrigan's availability on October 29th, can the survey be amended, Dr. Lister regarding e-mail to parents, press release, website and literature. The Chair asked if there was anything that the Committee could help her with.

Debbie Finnigan responded once the press release is written will send it to Dr. Lister via e-mail and website.

- B. School Survey Status – Supt. of School Bob Lister gave the Chair the School Surveys currently available and would check on the Middle School, Little Harbor and St. Patrick's Schools. The Chair and Debbie Finnigan will have the tabulated results by the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Grant Status – Debbie Finnigan stated she delivered the Grant to the RPC and Cindy Hayden mailed the Grant to John Corrigan, State Department of Transportation, State Wide Safe Routes to School Coordinator and she will provide the members with copies of the Grant via e-mail. Debbie Finnigan stated that she discussed the grant with Mr. Corrigan who reported the total amount of funding requested did not exceed the amount of grant funding available. Our application had a lot of information in it and Mr. Corrigan stated you can never go wrong with too much information.

Councilor Dwyer asked when the grant review would be completed and when would the City know if our grant was approved?

Debbie Finnigan will contact John Corrigan.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2007.

Respectfully submitted

Elaine Boucas
Recording Secretary