

SAGE Coalition Meeting Notes

Friday, July 15, 2016

1-3pm

Max Brandon Park

Pavilion 1, 400 Pasadena

Flint, MI 48505

Present: Theresa Roach (Crim Fitness Foundation), Ali Harris (Crim Fitness Foundation), Hayley Davilar (Flint River Corridor Alliance), Vanessa Ferguson (Flint River Corridor Alliance), Heather Barker (Greater Flint Health Coalition), Jack Minor (Friends of the Flint River Trail), Nancy Edwards (Genesee County Parks & Recreation), Adam Moore (City of Flint), Sara Duncan (Crim Fitness Foundation), Cade Surface (Crim Fitness Foundation), Carrie Baugher (Disability Network)

Review Meeting Notes

No changes requested

Committee Reports

- Advocacy & Events:
 - o Legislative Town Hall: Roach informed the group that the event is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 8. The event allows residents to connect to local legislators and discuss health-related issues.
 - Minor mentioned that candidates will be visiting neighborhoods soon to encourage resident votes. This will be a good opportunity to discuss environmental issues/bike shares/bike laws and infrastructure.
 - Roach would like the Crim communications intern to create a "Tips" sheet on how residents can connect with Legislators.
 - o Advocacy Training: Roach informed the group that the "Champions of Change" event will take place late September at Holmes Elementary as an after-school event for parents and community members. Surface requested SAGE members consider speakers/topics for the event. The focus is to empower residents and provide resources to develop leadership skills, form neighborhood groups, and advocate for non-motorized trails, signage, and positive change.
 - Minor asked if this event is serving communities beyond Flint. The group agreed that because the topics are broad enough, the event can successfully serve the entire community. If the event is successful, it can be done elsewhere in the future.
 - Edwards asked if the event could have current neighborhood leaders as speakers. Edwards will provide their contact information.
 - Duncan will check her contacts of out-county school speakers.
 - o Friday Fun Rides: Ride begins at 6:40pm today. It is every 3rd Friday of the month, the same day as the SAGE meetings. Routes vary, but in most cases will begin at Tenacity Brewing.
 - Minore recommended considering bike visibility during sunset hours (when drivers have the sun in their eyes, it is difficult to see cyclists).

- Baugher emphasized the importance of the sign-in sheets and liability waivers SAGE uses for the ride for emergency purposes
 - Route maps will be distributed in the future
- Policy Updates:
 - Surface informed the group that there is a lot of focus on bike/ped fatalities and policies.
 - MSU is interested in conducting a study on school children who walk/bike to school.
- Communications Update
 - SAGE newsletter, Friday Fun Rides, and marketing materials being developed. SAGE information is being updated consistently on the website and Facebook pages. A SAGE handout is also being created.
- Sustainability & Membership Updates: Surface, Harris, and Roach applied for a SAGE LISC member who will serve from Oct 2016-July 2017 to assist with SAGE initiatives focused on the north-end of Flint. The application is being pushed through to the National level. The member will also be engaging with volunteer recruitment for spring clean-ups around schools/neighborhoods and developing plans to engage regularly with community members.
 - Roach informed the group that membership is increasing, especially within the committees. If SAGE members know of potential candidates for committees who may not be able to attend the monthly SAGE meeting every third Friday of the month, please notify Theresa Roach at troach@crim.org.

Walking Audits

- Surface and volunteers have been conducting walking audits at three different locations. Funds will be provided to SAGE once the audits are complete.

Recognition Letters

- Edwards informed the group that a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place yesterday for the first Flint Bike Share. She also informed the group that the trail from Stepping Stones Falls to Blue Gill boat launch was re-done. In addition, the new agreement for park maintenance includes parks from Blue Bell Beach to Chevy Commons (12 properties added). Park maintenance, park rangers, and partnership with the City of Flint has successfully grown immensely.
- Ferguson recommended sending a letter to the UM-Flint Walk and Bike Group regarding the Bike share programs.
- Surface recommended the urban safety core be recognized for their recently created bicycle patrol groups sponsored by UM-Flint.
- Kettering University created pedestrian islands (end of Genesee Valley Trail to Kettering dorms on the north side of Chevrolet) which has improved safety.
- Minore informed the group that 120 tires have been removed from the river thanks to Terry Reechko from the Watershed Coalition and Sierra Club.

- Friends of Buckham Alley installed a bike rack in Brush Alley.

Successes/Announcements

- Minore has East Village magazines that members are welcome to take with them
- Edwards informed the group of a free and new publication called "The Hub." They will be doing an article for the August issue on Angela Stamps' Berston Bicycle Club project (this issue will be focused on health/wellness in general). The Hub focuses on free/inexpensive opportunities for residents.
- Edwards informed the group that daily conversations are taking place regarding the treehouse on For-Mar Nature Preserve. Construction will be wrapping up during the next SAGE meeting in August. In addition, park use and walking has drastically increased since the Pokemon Go app was introduced. Moore said that there is a way to request/removal of your location as a PokeStop.
- Ferguson: Saturday, Aug 6 is the Flint River Floatilla. 200+ participants are expected. Participants may park at Mott Park golf course and shuttles will take participants to Tenacity Brewing where the launch site will be. Volunteers are needed on the river and at the bridge. Kayaks/canoes can be rented and inner tubes can be purchased.
- Moore: CoF had a great turnout for the planning day at the Berston Field House for Sarginson Park's 4-5yr plan. A community build will take place fall 2016. Another planning meeting will take place at Hardenbrook Park on Tuesday, July 19 at Salem reserve.
- Heather informed the group that Commit to Fit launched the "Let's Move, Lets Read Challenge" today. The flyer will be emailed to troach@crim.org.
- Surface: The Crim will be facilitating a week-long intensive for 6th-8th who will audit infrastructure around their schools and recommend ways in which the school environment can be ped/bike friendly. Once the intensive is completed, the students will give presentations to City Council.
- Roach: The HealthPlus Crim Festival of Races takes place Friday, August 26 - Saturday, Aug 27. Register at crim.org. The Crim recently released the "I Crim For Flint" music to increase awareness of Flint and instill hope in residents. The Crim will also be on NBC25news Monday, July 18 to discuss the video. Crim job postings are open and can be viewed at crim.org.

NEXT SAGE MEETING: 1-3pm Friday, Aug. 19 at For Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum, 2142 N Genesee Rd, Burton, MI 48509