

BBAC Minutes

October 16th, 2013 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Fortinos 35 Worthington Avenue

Attendees: Guests: Erica Duque, Peel Active Transportation; Pauline Thornham (Sierra Club)
Members: David Laing, Dayle Laing, Councillor John Hutton, George Shepperdley, John Van West, Stephen Laidlaw, Kevin Montgomery, Carolyn Clubine, Hrushikesh Gandhi

Regrets: Gerald Pyjor, Osmani Perez-Rojas, Tricia Prato, Jerry Prato

Meeting Started: 6:45 pm

Approval to change agenda

- Order of agenda switched to accommodate Councilor Hutton's availability
- Also reflect on the cycling accident this morning on Spadina – young woman age 25 struck by a landscape truck with trailer behind.

Acknowledge cycling accident in Toronto

- Acknowledge the sadness, but strengthen resolve to make roads safer for cyclists.
- Wheel shields may have prevented the accident but the investigation is not complete so it's premature
- She was a new rider
- Sometimes even while riding in a bike lane you can feel intimidated because of so much large traffic.
- The bike lane on Spadina is not standard width as the road allowance is narrow.
- Also reflect on Greg Stobbart, Eleanor McMahon's husband 2006 death, and memorial ride is held annually. David attended this year and there were 350 participants.

Councillor Hutton update

- Ward Rides
 - Councillor Hutton spoke to some Councillors who are willing to participate in Ward rides.
 - Need to think about Ward alignment changes coming before the next election and how that would affect the ride routes.

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- All of the Councillors should go on the rides or at least be present to kick them off.
- Discussion about route for Ward 3, use of Eldorado Park, concern about dirt paths inside the park not suitable for Ward Ride
- Erica mentioned Mississauga ward rides were a mix of road and multiuse paths.
- Councillor Hutton mentioned the 2014 EAC Symposium. BBAC could be involved perhaps by presenting local initiative for Active Transportation.
- Councillor Hutton spoke with Don Naylor board chair of Brampton Downtown Development Corporation. Conversation helped pave the way for David and John's meeting with Peter Van Sickle Executive Director of the BDDC
- Councillor Hutton mentioned the sidewalk on Creditview from Williams Parkway to Steeles to include bicycle path inside the tree line. Residents are not happy.
- Councillor Hutton raised concern about cyclists' conduct at stopped intersections. Discussion ensued. Conclusion is that rules need to be clarified and more education is needed!

Review and approve minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve minutes: Dayle, Second: Kevin – Carried

Brampton can be a Bicycle Friendly Community

Discussion deferred to a future meeting when Nelson can present the Share the Road report

BBAC Project Updates

1. Downtown bicycle

John and David met with Peter van Sickle (BDDC Executive Director)

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revitalization project including updated signage, bicycle parking, downtown signed bike routes etc.

BDDC position is supportive of cycling in the downtown core and supportive of BBAC however there is at the moment no comprehensive plan for improvements to bicycle infrastructure.

Suggested actions and follow-up:

- Peter to invite David and John to the Western GTA Summit April 2014.
- Peter to invite David and John to make a presentation to BDDC members in December to talk about how increased cycling is good for downtown businesses.

2. *Safe bike routes to schools pilot project*

No update as Trish and Jerry are on leave from the committee.

Discussion ensued about ways to continue with this program.

- Considered important to build momentum for Active Transportation with youth and through kids to their parents.
- Funding is available for bike racks
- Could we look at schools that might be interested? Councillor Hutton suggested Mount Pleasant School – because it's in a commuter area and there are serious parking issues for residents' guests.
- David talked about the new city sustainable communities guidelines that focus on active transportation
- Erica talked about Eco-schools program where the push this year is on Active Transportation
- David reported that Ontario's Minister of Transportation has publically committed Ontario to become the most bicycle friendly province in the country. By 2015 school boards will be required to submit Active Transportation Plans to the province as part of funding
- Canadian Tire has a Jump Start program for schools

Action: David to contact Mount Pleasant school principle re possible safe routes to schools program.

Action: David to put Pauline in touch with Michele to pursue the schools in the Brampton East

3. *Bike recycling program for disadvantaged families (Peel Poverty Strategy)*

No update as Gerald was absent

George indicated Brampton Cycling Club will be donating \$2,000 worth of bikes and equipment to kids

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4. Brampton Ward Rides

Discussed above

5. Etobicoke Creek Trail nature interpretive bike ride (TRCA and Brampton Community Services)

- Erica, David, Michele and Joanna Parsons from the TRCA met last week.
- Event is called “Bike the Creek” to be held June 21st, 2014
- Jointly organized and promoted by the TRCA and City of Brampton
- Consists of two rides:
 - A 10 km Nature Ride with interactive stations at 2 km intervals will start from Loafers Lake north to Caledon.
 - A 40 km Creek ride will start at Loafers Lake south to Powerade Centre at 407/410.
- Hoping to make it free through sponsorships and include lunch. Erica suggested that there may be funds from Region.
- Councillor Hutton suggested an alternative start at the Powerade Centre
- Action: Councillor Hutton volunteered to ask Brampton Rotary Club to act as an event sponsor
- Target is for 100 participants the first year
- Next organization meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 3rd
- There will be a logistics ride on November 15th starting at 9:00 meet at Loafers Lake

6. Brampton Cycling Pamphlet

Kevin has asked the pamphlet publisher for editable files. Will leverage the Mississauga book, so need their permission to use. The publisher may also want funding from Brampton for this as the City of Mississauga paid for theirs. The group should not be held back by this lack of clarity. If by next meeting nothing further has happened we could explore other options.

John van West queried whether Trillium funding might be available.

Councillor Hutton suggested BBAC might want to present at a Regional Council Meeting about the east west routes that could be designated with Bike lanes and at the same time ask for support for this pamphlet. David asked Councillor Hutton to advise on the procedure to meet with Region of Peel staff.

Action: Councillor Hutton will advise.

Councillor Hutton also suggested David attend breakfast meeting with Minister Glenn Murray at the upcoming BILD conference in Vaughan. Action: David to follow-up with Councillor Hutton.

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New Business

Formal BBAC part of Safe City Road Safety Committee

Road Safety committee is meeting on October 22nd to discuss, and has invited David to offer BBAC's position

David is suggesting approach meeting with an open mind but a defined list of objectives for BBAC.

Consider: Overall to help Brampton achieve and maintain and enhance Bicycle friendly status. Do it through 5 plus 1 element – 1. Equity – accessibility. 2. Education 3. Encouragement – outreach to the public from the city awareness and cycling infrastructure 4. Engineering 5.enforcement and 6. evaluation

Ask how can those objectives be met as part of RSC?

Discussion:

Pluses:

- Safe City has money
- Have awards and BBAC could qualify

Minuses:

- BBAC would have a mandate extending beyond the Road Safety Committee terms of reference, example road design
- Waters down the focus of cycling for the city

Consensus is that BBAC should be its own standalone committee reporting to Council but that David should approach RSC meeting with an open mind

Public outreach for traffic calming initiatives

Kevin superimposed the addition of bike lanes into street photos supplied by David. Kevin is concerned the planned markings are insufficient to notify riders and drivers of the lane's purpose

BBAC Website and branding

Kevin positioned the benefits of BBAC having its own website, logo, social media strategy

Act as a focal point for information to flow between city and community. Twitter as a tool and also Facebook.

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Encourages community engagement and connects people across the city
Use it as a survey tool to help prioritize infrastructure development
Provide links to cycling information in Peel or the City.
Can create an on-line version of the Brampton Cycling guide

Newsletter to petition signatories

Bikefest June 2013 survey cards gathered email addresses from participants at booth.

Provide information about the BBFC application

Action: Dave will send out an initial newsletter and see who responds – opt in tool to be used to screen and set up an on-going newsletter

Set next meeting date

Time and date for next meeting.

Councillor Hutton suggested that we could hold a future meeting of this group in the old train station out in Mount Pleasant, so we can see the community.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2013 6:30-8:30pm Fortinos, 35 Worthington Avenue.

Adjourn: George moved. Kevin seconded. Carried.