

WALKABLE COMMUNITIES COALITION

AGENDA

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
12 Noon to 1 PM

disAbility Connections
409 Linden Avenue

MISSION: To create an environment where it's easy to walk and bike for recreation, transportation, and health; and to educate and encourage citizens to be active.

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2015 (enclosed)
4. Community Coalition Assessment Survey – Julie Weisbrod
(Light snacks and beverages will be available)
5. WCC Web Presence – Alex Cash
6. Complete Streets – Scott TenBrink
7. Report from Action Teams (if any)
 - a. Sidewalk Snow Removal
 - b. New Bike Racks in Park
 - c. “Year of the Bike”
8. Comments and/or Concerns from Members
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment

Next Meeting: May 12, 2015

12 Noon to 1:00 PM

disAbility Connections

WALKABLE COMMUNITIES COALITION

MINUTES

Walkable Communities Coalition
disAbility Connections
409 Linden Avenue
Jackson, Michigan

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 12 PM

Members Present: Alexandra Cash, Fitness Council of Jackson
Jon Dowling, City of Jackson
Simon Foster, Jackson Area Transportation Authority
Chris Gulock, MDOT – University Region
Ted Hilleary, Fitness Council of Jackson
Ken Mangus, Citizen
Laurel Mauldin, Citizen
Susan Richardson, Region 2 Planning Commission
Laura Schlecte, Jackson City Council
Parrish Stahl, disAbility Connections
Julie Weisbrod, Jackson County Health Department

Others in Attendance: Karen White, Jackson District Library

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mauldin called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2015

A motion was made by Ms. Richardson, supported by Mr. Hilleary, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. SUMMARY OF SMART COMMUTE PLANS

Ms. Cash distributed information on Smart Commute 2015. Kick-off is May 15, 2015 and every third Friday through August. This year the focus is on any type of travel rather than just commuting.

Ms. Mauldin wondered if a partnering activity could be organized in which ward council-people challenged each other regarding who could get the most

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ward citizens to bike downtown on a particular evening to eat (either at a restaurant or to picnic if funds or kids are issues). The winning ward could be recognized in some way.

Ms. Cash also distributed information about the Armory Bike Union's Spring Bike Sale on April 12, 2015.

5. **USDOT Mayor's Challenge**

Ms. Schlecte distributed information regarding the Mayor's Challenge, "*Safer People, Safer Streets*". The Jackson Community is registered as a participant with Councilwomen Schlecte as principal contact. There are seven challenge activities for making people and streets safer. The "challenge" runs for one year, however, a participating community need not tack all activities.

Ms. Schlecte suggested that the challenge activity regarding developing a complete streets ordinance might be a good place for our community to focus first. There was much discussion regarding getting an ordinance passed; this effort had been attempted several years ago. Mr. Dowling stated that Jackson currently has a Complete Streets resolution which he feels is more flexible. Mr. Gulock noted that the State of Michigan now has a Complete Streets law in place. Ms. Mauldin and Ms. Schlecte commented that many "bike/walk friendly" designations requires a community to have a Complete Streets ordinance.

Mr. Foster reminded the membership that the effectiveness of participating in this challenge was depended upon broad support from local leadership. It was decided to:

1. Ask Ms. Schlecte to gather written statements of support for the goals of the Mayor's Challenge from willing WCC members;
2. Request a resolution of support/buy-in for the Mayor's Challenge from the City Council and County Commission;
3. Issue a public statement (press release) announcing Jackson's participation; and
4. Ask Rhonda Rudolph and Scott TenBrink to talk to the committee about their experience with Complete Streets and to investigate what the state requirements are in this regard.

6. **"BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES" GRANT**

Ms. Weisbrod informed the committee that she has received a planning grant to help pinpoint the health assets, resources, and needs of the city's northeast

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neighborhoods (Loomis Park area). With this additional funding, there is now \$100,000 available. The first step is to begin assessments. She asked the WCC if they would be willing to help complete these assessments. It was agreed that:

1. The WCC will dedicate 15 minutes time slots at several upcoming meetings to this task. HEALTHY snacks will be provided to energize our work.
2. Ms. Weisbrod will provide information regarding the assessments to be discussed prior to the meetings so that members can be prepared.

Some of the “Mayor’s Challenge” activities may also be relevant to work being done for the Health Department’s new grant, such as identifying barriers to safe non-motorized transportation.

7. REPORT FROM ACTION TEAMS

One event has resulted from the discussions regarding naming 2015 the “Year of the Bike”. The Jackson District Library is planning a “WELCOME BACK TO BIKING” bike rally from May 9, 2015 from 12 – 3 PM at the Carnegie Library. Karen White, Jackson District Library, reported that many community groups will be participating including bike clubs and vendors, the Fitness Council, the DDA, and possibly Allegiance Health. If space permits with the street construction, JATA may provide a bus for demonstrating the use of bike racks.

8. COMMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM MEMBERS

Ms. Schlecte stated that there will be a brainstorming pizza party focusing on ideas for downtown that are “light, quicker, cheaper”. No date has been set.

Ms. Cash informed the committee that she has set up a free website, Facebook page, and e-mail account. More information will be presented via e-mail and at the next meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 PM