

Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday June 17, 2008
Historic Union School

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Lirones called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members and regular attendees present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Christina Lirones, Feliziana Meyer

Saline Area Schools: Thomas Wall

City of Saline: David Rhoads

Saline Township: Laurie Leinbach

Washtenaw County Planning: Terry Brinkman

York Township: Jane Kartje

Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition: Larry Deck, Frank Schwende

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from April 15, 2008

Motion by Rhoads, supported by Steeb, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

3. Non- Motorized Transportation – Larry Deck and Frank Schwende, Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (WBWC) www.wbwc.org

Mr. Deck and Mr. Schwende discussed the background and activities of the WBWC

Some highlights:

- The Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition promotes transportation options that make sense for a sustainable and livable community. It is dedicated to increasing the quality and quantity of bicycling and walking opportunities in Washtenaw County, Michigan through advocacy and education. It is comprised of local organizations, agencies and retail stores, as well as individual cyclists and walkers.
- WBWC has about 80 individual members, mostly from Ann Arbor.
- WBWC has been Ann Arbor-centric, but is expanding its focus to include all of Washtenaw County, including the County's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.
- It focuses on advocacy and plans; other organizations provide activities for their members.
- WBWC's DRAFT Non-Motorized Project Priorities were distributed (see http://www.salinesustainability.org/meetings/2008Meetings/wbwc_06172008.pdf) and briefly discussed.
- Recommendations are guided by these principles:
 1. Connection of centers of population, employment, education, shopping, and recreation.
 2. Completion of the Border-to-Border Trail as a backbone.
 3. Accommodation of the transportation needs of people without cars, with low income, or with disabilities.
 4. County-wide significance.

- 5. Near-term feasibility.
- 6. Presence in current plans
- WBWC is willing to entertain suggestions for its project list
- WBWC would appreciate a letter of support from the SSC for its project list at the appropriate time.
- WBWC would appreciate a letter of support from the SSC for individual projects at the appropriate times.

The discussion then turned to the possibility of a non-motorized connection between Ann Arbor and Saline.

- The I-94 interchange at Ann Arbor-Saline Road has been studied.
- A local advocacy group plus an advocate in local government is needed for anything to happen.
- Dave Rhoads (Saline) and Paul Montagno (Pittsfield Township) will be the local government advocates

Project funding issues were discussed.

- Federal funding is available. The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) helps to prioritize federal funding for transportation projects in the County. Up to 10% of the funds are available for non-motorized projects.
- State transportation funding may be available. 1% of state transportation funds are to be allocated to non-motorized projects.
- The state Department of Natural Resources can fund trails separated from roads.
- Local community funding may be available from local funds or allocation of state revenue sharing.
- The Washtenaw County Road Commission acts as the fiduciary for all projects along County roads. It looks favorably on non-motorized projects.
- The County parks millage earmarks 10% for non-motorized trails.

4. Future Agenda Items

Downtown Saline plans (Art Trapp, Todd Campbell)

Review the Regional Planning Guidelines

Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region

Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

5. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

Motion by Rhoads, supported by Leinbach, to cancel the July and August meetings. Motion carried.

September 16, 2008 – Saline Township Hall

- Downtown Saline plans (Art Trapp, Todd Campbell, Dave Rhoads)

6. Meeting Notices and Announcements

Sunday, June 22 – Sports Cars to Saline, downtown Saline

Friday evenings through July – Music Downtown, downtown Saline

Wednesday, June 25 – Saline Area Chamber of Commerce After Hours, Rentschler Farm

Thursday-Saturday, July 10-12, Celtic Festival

July 20 or 27 (TBD) – Henne Field project kickoff

Labor Day – York Bridge Walk, Sandra Richardson Park, Judd Road Bridge, Mary McCann

Park

Maple Road is being resurfaced in stages from Michigan Avenue to the library
Mills Road will be resurfaced from Michigan Avenue to Bennett Street

7. Adjournment

Motion by Kartje, supported by Wall, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

Visit the Saline Sustainability Circle website at www.salinesustainability.org.