

Yakima Bikes and Walks

6/24/14 Meeting Summary (and some other stuff)

We have a lot going on with the group already!

Recap of the Yakima City Council meeting (6/17/14): James Thomas spoke at the public comment opportunity and requested to re-instate the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Many of us attended in support. It sounds like that particular committee will not be reinstated, but the City is interested in our issues. Joan Davenport was at our meeting and reiterated the fact that the City was impressed with our turnout at the meeting.

Lance Reese, Matt Anderton, and Phil Matoon volunteered to meet with Joan Davenport and the city engineers to discuss lane striping, and some other issues. That meeting was scheduled for 7/2/14.

Maps: There is money and opportunity to improve the existing bicycle maps. It sounded like there are some people interested in working on improving these maps. The maps can be found here: <http://www.trekyakima.com/map/> and you find general information about Trek Yakima here: <http://www.trekyakima.com/>. YVCOG has boxes of bike maps, too. We can make sure to have some at the next meeting. The interactive bicycle route finder I mentioned can be found here: www.cyclopath.org.

Yakima's Bicycle Police Force stopped by the meeting, and explained what they do as they patrol the downtown core. A lot of what they do is explain bicycle safety rules to other cyclists, especially people riding on the sidewalks (perhaps because they do not feel safe biking with traffic?). The bicycle police help keep the sidewalks safe for pedestrians and downtown safer for all visitors. If we produce some good bicycle maps (ones that contain bicycle safety and rules information) perhaps we can partner with the bicycle police to distribute them.

Bicycle Racks: Nate Poel from the Yakima Maker Space presented the information about the bicycle racks in fabrication as part of the Tour de Farce. We will have three or four bicycle racks ready to place in prominent places around downtown Yakima. Jessica Martin has checked with the Beer Shoppe and they are willing to host a bike rack. We may need to speak to other business owners around town. Ideas for placement include the YMCA, the Yakima Valley Library, Yakima Maker Space, somewhere on North Front Street, the Seasons, the Capitol Theater. Once we know how much each rack costs, there could be opportunity for fundraising for more.

After the meeting, Nate mentioned to me that the Yakima Maker Space is interested in procuring some bicycle tools so people can work on their bicycles at the YMS. This may be a good opportunity for us as a group to provide some assistance to the YMS, since they have allowed us to use their space for free for our meetings. YMS is in the middle of a capital campaign. You can check them out here: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/yakima-maker-space> and here: <https://www.facebook.com/yakimamakerspace>.

Website: We have a website! www.yakimabikesandwalks.org. Check it out! James Thomas is looking for suggestions, photographs, and graphics for the website. Thanks James! Hopefully we can have a calendar on the website with advance notice of important City Council meetings and other meetings.

Community Transformation Grants: The Yakima Health District has a grant for complete streets or potentially a bicycle safety campaign. The grant expires at the end of September. The YHD may want our help to work on a project. The tight deadline will mean that we may need to form a committee of people willing to work pretty hard on a project for the next couple of months. Phil Hoge and Rebecca Brown are meeting with the YHD representative on 7/9/14.

North 1st Street and City Council meetings: These were short-notice meetings, and updates regarding both of them have been sent out in separate emails. Here is the Yakima Herald article about the most recent City Council meeting: <http://www.yakimaherald.com/news/latestlocalnews/2307255-8/yakima-city-council-accidentally-undoes-road-restoration-fee>. Oops.

Group Organization: We will need to figure out a form of official organization for this group. We may spend an upcoming meeting on this topic.

Listserve: I think a listserve or Google group may be a better way to interact with each other. If anyone has any thoughts or experiences using different listserves, please let me know!

Next Meeting: July 22