



WALK BIKE RIDE SOUTH ORANGE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 17, 2023 – 8:00-9:30 PM

Webex

<https://southorange.webex.com/southorange/j.php?MTID=m52bbcc5c9b38a47f04b42b90846bce65>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
 - a. Notetaker: Alan Kriegel
 - b. Attendees
 - i. Alisa Aronson
 - ii. Julia Flath
 - iii. Linda Gottlieb
 - iv. Trustee Summer Jones
 - v. Clif Kranish
 - vi. Alan Kriegel
 - vii. Ed Moore
 - viii. Drew Pattison
 - ix. Ben Vitale
 - x. Alexander
 - xi. Nathan Nassif?
3. Approval of Minutes from 6/20/2023 deferred to end of meeting. Approved.
4. Committee Administration Update
 - a. Notetaker for August: Nathan
 - b. Committee zoom account - suggested contribution \$5-10
 - i. Cost is \$150/year
 - ii. Contact Julia for Venmo/Zelle
 - iii. Trustee Jones followed up with SO IT to fund account
5. Communications
 - a. Follow and Share [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
 - b. Agreement to keep posts minimal and related to WBRSO activities
6. Public Comments
 - a. Ed Moore - Interested in how we manage public comments. Trustee Jones noted that they give people 3 minutes as a general guideline.
 - b. Ben Vitale - Interested in doing more work with Sangeeta Badlani
 - c. Linda Gottlieb - Asked how communication moves between WBRSO, SO Village, and Essex County. Julia does not have a clear answer on how it should normally work. Concerned about the slowness of the light and crosswalk at Vose and South Orange Ave. Trustee Jones noted that Report a Concern is the preferred method for reporting issues.
7. Village Engineer Update
 - a. None



- b. Trustee Jones offered support to clarify WBRSO needs from the Village Engineer
 - c. Ed Moore - Attended public safety meeting. Bids have been put out for repairing curbs and sidewalks. West Montrose redesign is still being studied.
- 8. SOPD Update
 - a. None
 - b. Lieutenant Acevedo on vacation. Ed Moore asked if SOPD could appoint a backup representative
- 9. Greenway
 - a. Greenway Walk with Maplewood, SO, SOMSD rescheduled for 7/21
 - i. Coordination to discuss potential plans for extending/connecting the Greenway
 - b. SO Trustees received this update on the Greenway
<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/soma/sections/green/articles/river-greenway-volunteer-leaders-brief-board-of-trustees-on-status-of-the-project>
 - c. No objections raised about becoming involved in planning
 - d. Major concerns around making sure the Greenway is part of any redevelopment plans. Trustee Jones will raise the issue with Julie Doran
 - e. Julia contacted Development Committee about setting up meeting(s) to discuss planning
 - f. WBRSO & Greenway Committee potential to work with NJT on Greenway route through NJT parking lot
 - g. Potential for JESPY House connection to Greenway through South Orange Commons
- 10. Maplewood Master Plan now public
 - a. More general than SO Master Plan regarding of mobility
 - b. <https://www.maplewoodnj.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1131/638212253954970000>
[0](#)
- 11. Traffic Calming
 - a. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Opportunity
 - i. WBRSO submitted letter of support with application for Vision Zero planning grant
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r4VgHEEPH0fWyx1TrdWDI7ScfeAp1VoE/edit>
 - b. South Orange applied for Transit Village grant
 - c. WBRSO to reach out to West Orange counterpart committee ([Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board](#))
 - d. NJ Target Zero Commission bill passed assembly in June, awaiting Senate vote in Nov
<https://njbwc.org/statement-from-vision-zero-new-jersey-alliance-on-creation-of-the-nj-target-zero-commission-a4296/>
 - e. Intro to Orange's Friends of Metcalf Park
 - f. Julia looking to connect to similar organizations in the region
 - g. Ben suggested talking to EZ Ride
 - i. Julia has spoken to them. They have offered to do a training, but we should have a clear idea about what we want to do with them. Ben offered to join Julia on building that relationship.
- 12. Pedestrian



- a. Reflective Gear Handouts with JESPY House and SOPD
 - i. Farmers Market presence to be scheduled
 - ii. Trustee Jones suggested being at National Night Out on August 1, possibly on the SOPD table since they are storing them.
 - iii. Drew - Suggested WBRSO develop a guide for how people could interface with the Village, such as using Report a Concern.
 - 1. Julia is in agreement - SO put together a draft traffic calming policy in 2020 that Julia started revising, but it has been a back burner task.
 - 2. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C7z2i4RE1PluAqmSvbRfvble-h9L_wjd/vi?usp=drive_link
 - 3. Ed suggested working with SOPD to develop guidelines to guide process for getting changes (such as stop signs) reviewed and implemented.
 - 4. Julie, Drew, and Ben all noted information is difficult to find on the SO website.
 - 5. Discussion about how GovAlert is very private.
 - 6. Ben suggests reviewing accident data, studying intersections, and moderating discussions as activities WBRSO could take part in
 - iv. Varsity & South Centre intersection - Drew requests stop sign
 - v. Can we add a traffic calming general category to Report a Concern
- 13. Bicycling
 - a. To schedule meetings w David Battaglia (town engineer) and David Antonio (county planner)
 - b. Ed discussed safety concerns around railroad crossing on West Montrose
- 14. Transit
 - a. Working on finalizing an email to Parking Authority to follow up on February meeting and address ideas on various improvements that could be made to the Jitney
 - b. Developing poll to be distributed to public to gauge transit uses and needs
 - i. NJ Transit has offered support in developing the poll
 - c. WBRSO met w NJT, NJT shared data on how people get to SO train stations
 - d. Trustee Jones - Changes to the Bus Routes - Wanted to share the update from CoachUSA, through its South Orange Avenue IBOA subdivision July 17, stopped running 31 buses before 5 a.m. and beyond 8 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays. As of July 23, there will be No Sunday service on the 31. CoachUSA has also made similar cuts on its Nos. 24 and 44 routes.
<https://www.nj.com/news/2023/07/upcoming-coach-usa-bus-service-cuts-concern-jersey-gardens-workers-city-official.html>
 - e. Trustee Jones - COncerns about the number of jitneys from other towns that idle on SO Ave at the train station and whether that has an effect on traffic and safety.
- 15. School
 - a. Safe Routes to School - start planning for fall
 - b. Busing
 - i. Radius expanded to 1.25mi for elementary schools

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- ii. School start times have changed due to busing - nearly an hour difference between early and late starting schools
- iii. Transportation request forms due 8/1
- iv. New hazardous routes identified
https://somsd.schoolboard.net/sites/nj.somsd.schoolboard.net/files/B.%20Policy%208600.1%20Hazardous%20Routes_1st%20Read_June%202023.doc_0.pdf?fclid=IwAR2jIbKyeneuhohvnGCvziIQRoyllkDO74B3C05MsVBWoNcrEzEhrSDYzRI

16. Misc

- a. Vote to come out as an organization against NJ's turnpike highway widening proposal
<https://turnpiketrapp.org>
 - i. Per SO lawyer, we cannot sign off as members of this committee, only as unaffiliated residents
- b. Julia to share 2022 crash report

17. Next Meeting Date: Monday, August 16 at 8 PM

- a. Meetings are 3rd Monday of month
- b. Subcommittee meetings to be scheduled

18. Adjournment