



Bike to the Future

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City of Winnipeg East Kildonan- Transcona Community Meeting

January 15th, 2007 5:30pm

Don English's notes

Agenda

Report of the River East Trail Committee on their proposed Marconi multiuse path to Councillors Thomas, Browaty and Wyatt.

Presenters:

John Kubi and Anders Swanson

John gave a broad overview on how the River East Trail Committee's process in putting together the report. He mentioned the November Public Meeting where the public was invited to participate in suggesting ideas for what they would like to see in the path. From there a steering cmte was set up to take those ideas into consideration and create a detailed proposal.

John also mentioned many of the benefits of the path including improved health and wellness and especially environmental considerations. He also spoke to the path being a showcase project and also spoke to connections between Downtown and Birds Hill.

John finally pointed out that the RETC wanted the entire cost of the Marconi path covered by government with no private fundraising required.

Anders then described the specifics the projects, including

1. Multiuse – to be suitable for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchairs, skaters and skate boarders.
2. Linear 12 ft asphalt following the old railway bed to be maintained on a 4 season basis.
3. Ensuring that cyclists and pedestrians would not be held up too much at Intersections such as Munroe and Springfield
4. Access points to include Schools, Recreation Centres, Shopping Centre.
5. Community Gardens, natural grasses, benches and proper signage to be included.
6. Spoke in support of B2F's proposed Marconi-Downtown Connection as well as connecting to Birds Hill.

Reaction from all Councillors was very positive. They asked some questions about the Birds Hill and Downtown connections with Councilor Thomas speaking that she was against the city's proposed downtown connection of Herbert-Grey-Mission. She also mentioned we might take a look at getting over to the Louise Bridge but also spoke to "eyesore" and security concerns of travelling thru parts of Point Douglas at night. Councilor Browaty mentioned that traffic on the north part of Marconi will be reduced by the new Chief Peguis connector, thus improving safety at the north end of Marconi. Councilor Wyatt's ear perked up when John mentioned that they hoped to connect the path over to Transcona and joked "Go East Young Man" to John (who is probably in his 70's). He also asked if the group had been in contact with the East St Paul Reeve and John advised that they had been and the RETC also has a member from East St Paul.

Councilor Wyatt did mention that if the City covered the entire cost of the Marconi Path the entire yearly budget for cycling would be used on just one path.

The report was taken as information and will be discussed at the Tuesday January 16th Infrastructure Meeting. Sigrun Bailey and Anders will speak at that meeting. Hopefully there will be a motion at that meeting to forward to the EPC for further consideration. (Councillors Browaty and Thomas are on the Infrastructure and Public Works Cmte.)

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm (as far as we were concerned)

Anders advised will make a copy of the report available on his website and send the link to B2F within the next few days.

Tks
Don