



Friends of 40th Street

31 October 2008

Friends of 40th Street
Meeting Memo No. 39

Date/Place/Time: 31 October 2008/ Community Room – 3901 Market Street /8:00 a.m.

Attendance:	Brenda Alexander	3901 Market Street
	Jessi Averill	The Partnership CDC (TPCDC)
	June Bey	TPCDC
	Ethel Briscoe	3901 Market Street
	Herbert Briscoe	3901 Market Street
	Shirley Carter	3901 Market Street
	Joyce Caulley	3901 Market Street
	Ila Clark	3901 Market Street
	Marc Desir	3901 Market Street
	Shirley Dilday	3901 Market Street
	Yvonne Griffin	3901 Market Street
	Gary Ginsberg	Presbyterian Hospital
	Lee V. Goode	3901 Market Street
	Estelle Haraksin	3901 Market Street
	Corrine Hosey	
	Eleanor Johnson	3901 Market Street
	Veeda Johnson	3901 Market Street

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Mia King	The Enterprise Center CDC
Stafford Knuckle	3901 Market Street
Kathryn Laws	3901 Market Street
William McCollum	3901 Market Street
Pat Miller	SEPTA
Mark Mills	The Metropolis Group
Ann Mintz	University City District (UCD)
Ida Morris	3901 Market Street
Nancy Mosley	3901 Market Street
Pat Nowak	3901 Market Street
Sia Rah	3901 Committeewoman Tenant Council
Richard E. Rogers	3901 Market Street
Lee Senior	UCD
Arthur Summers	3901 Market Street
George Stevens	3856 Lancaster Avenue
Sydney E. Stevenson	3901 Market Street
Francis Talley	3901 Market Street
Imanni Wilkes	The Enterprise Center CDC
Geraldine Williams	3901 Market Street
Steven Williams	TPCDC
Matthew Wolfe	University City Republican Committee
James Wright	PEC CDC

Items Discussed:

1. Andrew welcomed everyone then everyone introduced themselves. The previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as read.
2. Breen Goodwin (BG) from the Bicycle Ambassador Program run by the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia first spoke about her role with this newly created program. This program focuses on educating the adult population in University City on the proper ways to ride a bicycle according to state laws. The program's motto is "ride more often, ride more safely." Presently, the program began its work in June and is funded until 2010. Since June, BG has been developing the background information needed to move forward with the program, such as implementing several test events to gauge what works and what does not when communicating about bicycle safety. Outreach has included bicycling along the streets and talking with people riding as well as setting up tables at community events like Clark Park's Farmer's Market.

BG went on to present about bicycle safety. Many still do not realize that it is illegal to ride a bicycle on the sidewalk in a business district (which 40th Street is) in Pennsylvania. While talking with those people she catches riding on sidewalks, they express feeling unsafe riding on the street. In response, BG will encourage bicyclists to plan routes that include bike lanes so that they may feel a little safer. Also, she has suggested that bicyclists put bells on their bicycles and/or use their voices more when crossing at intersections as many bicyclists are known to ride through red lights. BG stressed she cannot provide law enforcement but she can do things like this which provide alternatives and education to the bicyclists.

BG has also been providing suggestions to pedestrians. When pedestrians are walking pets, it is suggested to hold them tight in order to avoid colliding with bicyclists. BG went on to say that it seems there is a low percent of those riding against traffic; however, there is no data yet to support this. There is also no data yet to determine which routes are used the most by bicyclists though it is assumed that streets with bike lanes should have a higher ridership rate.

This program is still developing its outreach materials and methods. It is modeling a similar program in Chicago. By the spring, the program hopes to hire six additional ambassadors which will be more seasonal like between May through September.

A question was asked whether the program is involved with Critical Mass, which it is not.

BG commented that REI (an outdoor retail store) is helping to develop a bike class.

Another question was asked about addressing a concern about some bicyclists swerving through traffic. BG stated that the ambassadors will try to stop and talk with bicyclists doing this. BG reminded everyone that bicyclists do need about a 3 foot clearance from cars when riding on the street. Also, a bicyclist can take a lane if he/she is traveling the same speed as traffic. The program hopes to work more closely with law enforcement through "enforcement campaigns" to help address potentially unsafe and illegal riding.

BG closed by announcing that ambassadors will be working 40 hours per week including weekends and work within the districts of Center City, University City and Fairmount Park.

3. Next Captain Fischer (CF) presented. CF first announced that Penn Police is already involved in the “Share the Road” program which is an education campaign for bicyclists and motorists. Pamphlets are handed out instead of tickets. CF handed out a driving and cycling brochure for the Friends with some valuable information about legal requirements for cyclists. Particularly, it is illegal to ride a bike on the sidewalk in Philadelphia, and cyclists must follow and obey the same laws as cars when riding in the road. Also, the brochure outlined proper hand signaling to auto traffic if a cyclist wants to slow down or make a turn. CF also noted that pedestrians have the right of way first, then bicyclists, then motorists. Bicycle accidents can be very damaging, as one in eight bicyclists with reported injuries experienced a brain injury. One question the police sometimes hear is “How come officers can ride on sidewalks.” Pennsylvania law does allow officers to do this because it helps them look inside businesses, etc better.

Another announcement CF had was about the South Street Bridge closing before the end of the year—Penn has since announced that the first day of construction will be Monday, December 8. Penn’s Division of Public Safety has information on their website about the bridge at www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/ssbridge/. He continued to say that at this time the bridge’s budget does not include overtime for officers. The project is scheduled to last about 20 months.

CF went on to note that crime incidences are down 5%. Penn Police have been getting more involved with streets outside of their boundaries like 46th Street. They believe that they want and need to care about crimes located outside their district. This also helps city police.

Unfortunately, CF announced another homicide near the 40th and Market Street. On October 18, 2008 there was a fight that started at the arcade at 40th & Spruce Street. Officers were able to break up, however, the fight started again at 40th & Ludlow ending in a death and one injury. At the time of this meeting, the 15 year old suspect was still at-large.

Again, it has been identified that 3 properties at the Townhomes at 3990 Market Street are causing harm to the area and its residents. Eviction process is underway for these properties. Police and the Townhomes’ management have installed cameras, cleared back tree growth and started a police detail there. The cameras have already been damaged. At this time, it is only a rumor of whether the Townhomes are transitioning from Section 8 tenets to non-Section 8.

4. Due to time, Iola Harper from the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) – West has been rescheduled for the meeting on Friday, December 5th.

Submitted by:

Jessi Averill
The Partnership CDC

Cc: Those in Attendance
Friends of 40th Street