



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS: MARIN COUNTY



MILL VALLEY TASK FORCE- SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

MEETING MINUTES April 28th, 2011

Introductions/Attendees (10)

Attendees: Wendi Kallins- Director Safe Routes to Schools, Jill Barnes- Mill Valley Public Works, Stephanie Moulton Peters- SR2S Team Leader, Peggy Clark- Safe Routes to Schools, Vickie O'Reilly- Co-Team Leader Park, Deborah Cole- School Pool, Elisabeth Thomas Matej- BPAC, Ann Brown and Kathy McLeod- Wheelscape , Maureen Paton -Marin County.

Welcome and Introduction

Year Review

Park

Vickie reported- The school created a bulletin board and used the challenge leaves with messages written on them to encouraging carpool, walking and cycling to school. The school does not want to add more tasks for the teachers, so they do not want to participate in the classroom challenges.

Stephanie- suggested the school focus on Walk and Roll to school, build momentum- celebrate the new sidewalk and promote the positive efforts of SR2S at Park.

Elisabeth- noted PG&E trucks parked on sidewalks during local work projects. Requested DPW ask maintenance trucks not to park on sidewalks. Dangerous for students and all pedestrians.

Stephanie- How does SR2S reach the teachers?

Ann- she experienced from her time at Neil Cummins and Manor as a teacher and SR2S Team Leader- helpful to attend teacher/staff meetings, talked up how she rode to work , helps to recognize the teachers for their efforts when they cycled to school. Helpful to have contact with in the school to support efforts

Wendi- It works to have teachers support SR2S in the middle and high schools- the challenge is when the teacher moves onto another cause and no longer puts their focus on SR2S events. It can be a challenge to keep the teachers on board- they have many influences.

Deb- suggested Ken Benny talk to principals about the overlap of SR2S with other "green" programs in the school and how they can benefit each other.

Stephanie- with Ken leaving the district it will be important to meet with him soon to help make a connection with the new SI

Wendi- requested to attend a first meeting with Ken and/ or the new SI. It is very important to institutionalize SR2S within each school Site Council or PTA. The Team Leaders need support to get assistance and to find replacements.

Vicki- Park School has SR2S designated as at PTA position

Deb- Edna they need to learn what each PTA group is doing to avoid overlap.

Wendi- Schools tend to have a focus on specific categories for PTA groups: gardening, recycling and Cool the Earth- SR2S efforts tend to fall between these categories. It is important to have the green teams fold in transportation. SR2S with the MTC funds is developing a Neighborhood School Guide- goal is to match-up families to identify options to get to school. If/when families in the group move or change schools the neighborhood group will stay intact and not fall apart when a participating family moves on. Kentfield came up with this idea and is currently developing a plan.

Project Update- Jill Barnes

1. East Blithdale-Park School: Construction moving forward at Ashford- soon bulb outs will be completed
2. Eldridge/West Blithdale/Lincoln-formalizing path- level off- higher visibility at crosswalks.
3. SR2S Miller & Almonte- Federal Project has been on the books for a long time- Cal Trans will start design this summer. Bulb outs Miller/Almonte stripping with connecting to bike lanes- project also includes path in front of Redwoods- considerations include how to incorporate Redwoods and SR2S needs- developing design options-

Elizabeth- will bike button be included in the Almonte Miller project?

Jill- no bike button included at this time.

Stephanie- multi- use path near MVMS- suggestions received to narrow path and put up speed signs during busy usage on the bike path.

Kathy- good example in LA area- police put up signs on weekends- walk bike- cyclists are ticketed if they disobey the laws

Elizabeth- stops and curves can often discourage users to use path.

Wendi- Mikes Bikes may support efforts to educate path users.

Jill- BPAC has addressed this with the many Bike Shops and rental companies.

Deb- police do say they tickets cycling offenders on the path.

Jill- there is a SR2S grant for signage around schools- look into signage around school to be consistent with the nation's signage –look at for 2012.

Elizabeth- East Blithdale – asphalt has bumped up and created bubbles in the cement

Vickie- suggested school in session- reduce speed signs

Wendi – In AZ they have such signs in CA this is more challenging. The signs near Park have been upgraded in the past couple of years.

Debra- speed limit is already 25

Wendi- it is not always the speed- it is often drivers not paying attention- not yielding.

Jill- Elm Street to Alta Vista- funded- begin design in the summer.

Miller Ave plan is being addressed

Stephanie- town is working with the school and all concerned parties on how to address the path and the intersection

Kathy- a bulb out is helpful to all users- new law – approving green bike lanes in the US.

Wheels Escapes

Kathy- Wheelsecpes is an after school bike ed program- teaching students how to cycle to and from school- they take practice rides to learn the features of each route, practice on blacktop 1st and then ride on the streets. The Park and Rec department support the program but they have to double the price to cover the percentage Parks and Rec wants to promote the classes.

Kathy – seeking ideas on how to promote the program at the schools in MV. Currently Tam Valley and Strawberry are conducting the after school classes- next goal Old Mill and Park

Stephanie- suggested Kathy work with the Team Leaders

Vickie- suggested they put sign up around the school- ask the principal to eblast information about program.

Maureen- if the school endorse the classes- this will help the parents feel reassured the students are being taught the correct information.

School Pool

Deb- After school matching program just announced. Now School Pool can populate routes and for a one way trip or reoccurring trips. Now families can request school match or an after school match. The Marin County Office of Education has recently sent out an announcement.

Vickie- good to include information in back to school packets

Elizabeth- important to remind parents on site about booster seats safety and laws

Deb- Street Smarts not coming out this spring but it will next August- new lawn signs. DPW will approve locations- possibly provide signs for groups on Walk to School Day

Kathy- can Tam Valley have signs

Maureen- yes send email to her via the county

Deb- suggested a ribbon cutting for the new Park sidewalk- give credit to SR2S and remind residents what a great job the DPW does in Mill Valley

Wendi- Team Leader update

Tam Valley- needs assistance

Strawberry – Ok

Park OK

Old Mill- Ok

MVMS- SR2S is working with the school- recently the Teens go Green program got passed over for other programs of more interest to parent volunteer.

Stephanie- recently Cool the Earth approached her- she want to have SR2S and Cool the Earth work together- she is willing to go to the PTA to explain how important this is.

Stephanie- student and parent surveys are going out in early May

Elizabeth- Share the Road Education needed

1. Weekend road worriers

2 educate the public

3. designate a flat are in MV were people can go to learn how to ride on flat area- home owners on hills need a place to ride safely

4. The bike path is not a place to teach students how to ride a bike

5. Cyclists are usually vehicle drivers too- important to learn the correct rules

Stephanie- can the BPAC find someone to teach programs in Mill Valley? Need to talk to neighborhoods. Mill Valley has a rudeness problem- it is the people who are responsible for the community- look for positive examples.

Vickie- the town could adopt themes – like the schools do Kindness- Cooperation it can work for adults too

Meeting adjourned

Fall meeting to be announced