

Meeting Notes

Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association/ John Strange PTO Committee

Meeting held on 4/04/11

Attendees: John Strange Elementary School PTO

Jen Thomas, 2011-2012 Co-President

Anne Petersen, Member

Mark Wilcher, PTO Treasurer

Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association

Tom Sturmer, Board Member

Ted Hudnut, Member

Founding Mission:

Through regular communication, identify and implement ways to work together to strengthen neighborhood support of John Strange Elementary School.

Committee History:

Committee formed as a result of a presentation by Mrs. Beas, Principal, to the F-SNA. Several ideas for collaboration were identified. Committee open to F-SNA members appointed by the Board and John Strange PTO members and school families as appointed by the PTO co-Presidents.

Items Discussed:

Safe Routes to School grant application opportunity

1. At the last meeting, held on 3/21, the Committee discussed the Safe Routes to School Program and whether or not this Committee should consider preparing a grant application for John Strange School. Issues discussed included:

- a. How many students are affected? Jen calling Tammy _____, Transportation Director of MSDWT, to see if we can get student residence locations. Tom to see if that information can be downloaded from the SAVI GIS database.
- b. Can the grant application also address Eastwood Middle School? There are a number of students who already walk to school. Good idea, but don't know if there is enough time to include Eastwood by May 27, when the SRTS application are due to the State. Do we know anybody there to talk to about this?
- c. Discussed the merits of applying for a non-infrastructure grant application (max award = \$75K) versus an infrastructure grant application (max award = \$250K). Good non-infrastructure application from John Strange has a much better chance of getting awarded this year. Will allow the school community to conduct the outreach and education activities that are essential for developing a successful, equitable program. A Safe Routes to School Plan can be developed which identifies what engineering and enforcement activities should be conducted and to develop partnerships with the City and other stakeholders. Desirable training programs can also be conducted.
- d. The Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association is conducting a sidewalk survey for all streets within 0.5 mile of John Strange School on Saturday, April 9, at 10 AM. Event flyers were distributed, and all are invited to participate. Jen to have PTO send e-mail with flyers to JS families, pending approval from Mrs. Beas.
- e. Tom and Jen provide professional services related to Safe Routes to School programs, and would be interested in providing these services to the School if the grant is awarded. Tom and Jen can take the lead on preparing the grant application.
- f. Tom to prepare a list of tasks that we need to accomplish in the near future to decide if the School is interested in moving forward. A timeline showing the process milestones would be helpful.
- g. Agreed to meet next Monday @ 8 AM to continue discussion about grant application and a Walk/Bike to School program at John Strange.

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 11, 8 AM @ John Strange School conference room
(Discuss moving forward with Safe Routes to School grant application)**