

Meeting Notes

Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association/ John Strange PTO Committee

Meeting held on 4/18/11

Attendees: John Strange Elementary School PTO

Jen Thomas, 2011-2012 Co-President

Anne Petersen, Member (regrets)

Carey Hamilton, Parent (regrets)

Fairfields-Sylvan Neighborhood Association

Tom Sturmer, Board Member

Ted Hudnut, Member (regrets)

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 4/4, 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. Questions included how many students are potentially affected.
 - a. Input from the MSDWT: 2-mile radius = 493 Students, 1-mile radius = 236 students, ½-mile radius =40 students. This is consistent with what was found on the SAVI GIS database.
 - b. A reasonable preliminary goal for participation in a Walk/Bike to School program at John Strange is 10% of the student body (60 students) after two years of implementation. The participation rate should increase over time after that with continuing outreach and education efforts.

- c. There is an overall benefit to the entire school population (and community) via health awareness initiatives, bike training, giveaways to needy students, less car traffic in the morning, etc. Tom will summarize what the benefits could be for the entire John Strange and surrounding community.
 - d. Mr. Gorecki pointed out that there are a number of staff members and volunteers that regularly bike to John Strange. They will also benefit from the program.
2. Document committee members who support moving forward with this initiative.
 - a. Jen to prepare a “resolution” for committee members to “sign on” and will send to existing Committee members.
 - b. Reach out to new Committee (and staff?) members who have expressed interest in the initiative.
 - c. Jen to invite Mr. Gorecki, PE teacher, to participate. Mr. Gorecki’s running club would benefit.
 - d. Mrs. Barnes is the John Strange liaison for the School District’s Wellness Policy. Jen to contact.
3. School administration support:
 - a. Jen to send past two sets of Committee meeting notes to Mrs. Beas. Tom sends meeting notes to the F-SNA.
 - b. Determine support from School and district Administrations. Who will sponsor and sign grant application? Sponsor will be contracting for professional services if grant is awarded.
 - c. Jen to forward Committee resolution to Mrs. Beas and ask for her support. Invite Mrs. Beas to our meeting on Monday? Ask her who to contact at the District office (Brian Crouse?).
4. Bike rack and School entrance beautification initiatives:
 - a. Jen will talk to the School PTO about potential support for a bike rack installation on school property, location to be determined.
 - b. Tom to find out how much a new bike rack installation would cost. Will depend on capacity, etc.
 - c. If the PTO is interested, Tom will ask a landscape architect/designer to conduct an evaluation of the front entrance landscaping and share ideas on how much it will cost to enhance the main entrance to the school.

**Next Meeting: tbd @ John Strange School conference room
(Discuss Safe Routes to School grant application)**