DRAFT Minutes
Environmental and Safety Committee Meeting
December 7, 2010
HH 132  9:30 – 10:30 am

In attendance:
Members: Penelope JE (Jenny) Quintana, Chair, Bob Schulz, BFA, Kristin Ross, EHS, John Foissett, SA/SHS/BPS/C&PS, Berenice Rodriguez, student, also Enviro-Business Society, Johnny Eaddy, Physical Plant.

Also in attendance were:

Summary:
The meeting was planned to focus on the safety and acceptability of the bike and skateboard lane on campus. This was due to the need to either renew the fading temporary markings or to put permanent markings on the bike lane. After much discussion, the E and S committee members voted on a resolution to approve a permanent bike lane for bikes only, and to ban skateboards from campus. This was passed with one dissenting vote.

Detailed minutes:
Bob Schulz opened the meeting with an overview of the history of the bike lane. He said that even though the initial plan was to review the temporary bike lane after one year, the temporary markings were fading sooner than expected. He asked that we move the discussion sooner so as to potentially replace the fading markings with permanent markings rather than spending more money ($35,000) on new temporary markings.

A general discussion followed, focusing on the Farmer’s Market and shared use problems that have arisen.

Police officer Jennifer Hart, University Police, reported that skateboard citations had increased 82%. In reviewing injuries that might be related to the bike and skateboard lane, she had found three: all personal injuries to skateboarders. One injury was due to the skateboard catching in a crack or indentation on the bike lane on the walkway near Farmer’s Market.

Anecdotal evidence followed in a general discussion about a perceived increase in illegal skateboarding on campus.

Question: is there a perception among skateboarders that skateboards are OK all over campus?
Tara Kelly: Green Love and E3 did an outreach and education effort for three weeks on campus about the rules regarding the bike lane (3 weeks 11am-1pm, Monday – Thursday).

Recommendation: Do another education with the addition of Public Safety to add weight.

RD Williams: Could we use community service officers instead as Public Safety is overstretched?

Discussion followed about truncated domes and whether these are adequate for disabled students.

Johnny Eaddy commented that during the Farmers Market and Fairs, big trucks cannot get through safely. Should we relocate fairs and/or Farmers Market? It is too crowded.

John Foissett: Access for carts was discussed and planned for in the bike lane but not big trucks.

Bob Schulz: Trucks should use bike lane not pedestrian lane.

Johnny Eaddy: It is dangerous for trucks to share the bike lane.

John Rodriguez: We need to access campus at all times.

RD Williams: In terms of the Farmer’s Market, the venders will go down in number next year.

Bob Schulz: Let’s move the Farmer’s Market down to the South end of Campanile walkway.

Tara Kelly: Can’t we move it to the middle?

RD Williams: It’s hard to do that.

Laurie Cooper: How about the area in front of the library?

Various: It is a fire hazard.

Johnny Eaddy: How about 1, limiting vendors and/or 2, moving the market to the OAT.

Bob Schulz: How about cordoning off the bike lane on Thursdays?

Laurie Cooper: Construction will be starting next semester near there.

Kristin Ross: One side of the OAT walkway has to be clear.
Bob Schulz: If we say that we won’t locate the Farmer’s Market between Hardy Tower and the OAT, since that is most of the vehicle and foot traffic, does that leave room for Farmer’s Market?

Laurie Cooper: there might be space at the North end.

Bob Schulz and Johny Eaddy both think that they should relocate the Farmer’s Market to Campanile south of the OAT.

RD Williams: What about one row vs. both sides?

Someone: It seems that we either have to close the bike lane or relocate the Farmer’s Market.

RD Williams said he was against closing the bike lane. Tara Kelly said students wouldn’t comply.

John Foissett asked about the ball field but Bob Schulz said it got a lot of use and that the Farmer’s Market would kill the grass.

RD Williams: Aztec Shops could agree to move the Farmer’s Market in the Spring Semester.

(UPDATE: FARMER’S MARKET WILL MOVE TO NORTH END)

Jenny Quintana: Skateboards seem like the biggest safety problem based on data and anecdotes.
Discussion followed.

Jennifer Hart, Public Safety: Skateboards are continually a problem.

John Foissett: It is a confusing message to the skateboarders. SHS continually sees skateboard injuries and additional collisions that are not reported to public safety.

The following motion was made: (Bob Schulz)
The E and S committee supports a permanent bike lane on campus, and supports the use of permanent stain now, if skateboards are removed (no skateboards allowed on campus). John Foissett seconded the motion. Almost all in favor, one opposed.

Discussion followed about an appropriate meeting time next semester. Tuesdays at 9:30 seemed OK but data needs to be taken from those members not in attendance.