ED Report for Week Ending Jan 31 2014

*This report augments reports on initiatives presented at board meetings and the intermittent “What’s Going On” updates I’ve been providing by email and through the Board Room page. Last week’s entry covered the first few weeks of January.*

# Advocacy

1. Received and accepted meeting request for next week with Sen. Beth Bye and Governor’s Office staff for next week.
2. Received and accepted meeting request for next week with Tourism group, via Kip Bergstrom from DECD.
3. Re - solicited board and other planners’ feedback on whether and how to strengthen complete streets law. (The suggestion for a workshop didn’t recognize the timing needs of the legislative session, but we may be able to schedule a call early next week. )
4. Scheduled conference call for transpo advocates; proposed biweekly calls for this legislative session, like last year.
5. Working with SCBC reps to schedule a meeting to promote more activism in Fairfield County (initiated by Ray Rauth).
6. Reviewed TSTC proposal for VU bill.
7. Skimmed fed policy developments; forwarded to Kelly R for tracking.
8. Met with Sue Merrow as advocacy mentor.
9. Attended OSE/SEEC session on ethics for lobbyists.
10. Followed up on status of DPH complete grants contract. Their contracts unit is backlogged, but DPH liaisons continue to press for completion.
11. Floated the idea of convening the Advocacy Chairs of bike clubs at an informal social, to help raise the level of engagement across the state.
12. Attended part of a 3-hour budget forum at the Capital presented by CT Voices for Children, primarily to hear what Ben Barnes had to say. (Key takeaway: with healthcare costs increasing 3-4% a year, every year, how long till we’re spending most of our money on health care? There’s an angle for us.)

# Education

1. Contacted Local Motion for background on their bike rental program. Haven’t connected yet.
2. Contacted Luis about getting CCMC involved in bike ed or bike rental program. No response yet.
3. Continued pricing discussion with Simsbury for June 1 4-hour bike ed session.
4. Received, responded to West Hartford inquiry for bike rentals.
5. Received inquiry from Suffield for bike ed/rental program.

(Prior inquiries from Jim Arnold re teach the teacher; Craign Mergins for June Sporting Chance for Youth program in Riverside Park.)

# Communications

1. Met with Gary. Planned a way to engage nonmembers to let them know their newsletter subscriptions will end unless they join.
2. Reviewed high level analytics for facebook and twitter.
3. Assigned topics for News page.
4. Planned monthly updates of communications dashboard with Tara.
5. Assigned development of press release to announce DPH complete streets grant, whenever it is approved.

# Event Planning – Bike to School Day

1. Asked Ken, Stuart and Laura for thoughts on preparing ideas for a proposal to VN to subcontract some of the public outreach work. (CT has an $800K Safe Routes to School contract with VN Engineers. VN Engineers asks for our help publicizing Bike to School Day. )Event Planning – Bike to Work Day
2. Asked for a board chair for Bike to Work Day programming. Noted urgent need for board leader on Bike to Work Day at 1/15 board meeting. People are asking what our program will entail; we need a response.
3. Discussed pitch to potential title sponsor with Gary.

# Event Planning - Discover Hartford

1. No news: Got confirmation that EnvisionFest is scheduled for Sat. Sept. 20, 2014; No further discussions with CCAP have taken place since 1/15.

# Fundraising

1. Received $1000 from Sound Cyclists Bicycle Club, which is thrilled to be recognized as a Gold Business Member. This adds 3 of their directors to our membership roster and allows a $5 discount on Bike Walk CT membership to their members.
2. Visited Lululemon (again) to stay on their radar for their designated charity, coming up this spring.
3. Visited Newington Bike. Got some interesting feedback.
4. **NOTED: Prudential’s $450,000 grant over three years to Achieve Hartford! for building organizational capacity. *We need to look for these opportunities and start building our networks with funders who clearly support capacity building grants!***
5. Postponed investigating Bank of America as a sponsorship prospect. Could use board help.
6. Updated development database with prospects, timelines and next steps for grants, business memberships and sponsorships.

# Management, Administration, Board

1. Met with Laura.
2. Discuss business planning with one potential consultant. Received interest from 2 other consultants. Call scheduled with a second potential consultant for Monday. Call to be scheduled with the third.
3. Shared Tara’s notes from IRS phone forum on good governance for exempt organizations. (Laura and Tara participated.)
4. Have not received follow up info yet on board orientation session with LGH (Investigated Leadership Greater Hartford’s Leaders on Board/Express Match program and their orientation process for board candidates. Asked for info on providing board orientation session to our existing board first.)
5. Collected mail, recorded and deposited receipts on days Tara is not available.

# Membership

1. Started bouncing chapter membership idea off a few more people. May be important to pursue before more groups start following Glastonbury’s lead and incorporating on their own.
2. Updated membership records on days when Tara is not available.
3. Planned monthly updates to membership dashboard with Tara.

# Other

1. Fielded suggestions for “Dinner & Bikes” promo in Hartford for June, which turns out to cost $600. Invited Tony (the contact point for the promoter) to consider our vetting criteria and whether we might use a crowdfunding site to raise the proceeds, then turn it into a fundraiser.
2. Attended Bike Ped Advisory Board meeting.
3. Participated in DOT visioning session for Transform CT.
4. Responded to LAB request re Bike Friendly State application.Request Board Ambassador for 2/4 bike movie at the Athenaeum.