

## SIM MINUTES

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No meeting in July!! See you in August. Watch for email updates.

Money/Members SIM has about \$2000 in the bank after all Arts Walk related expenses. We have 52 paid members, including 22 lifetime members, and 13 new or renewed members in 2009, and 17 paid near the end of 2008. We have 230 members on our email list, and 140 members in our Facebook Group. We're huge! But our paid membership doesn't reflect our numbers. If you haven't paid your dues this year, please do so! The form can be found at [starkvilleinmotion.org](http://starkvilleinmotion.org).

Sidewalk Committee: Congratulations to the Sidewalk Committee of SIM, which helped the city's sidewalk committee draft and pass a sidewalk ordinance. All new subdivisions will have sidewalks from now on. Next the group is working on a comprehensive map/plan for sidewalks in the city. Randall McMillen is helping to develop a map with all existing sidewalks, and priorities will be set based on this map. After this, the committee may transition to more of a "complete streets" committee, and is also currently working on drafting a striping policy that would have bike lanes striped on all overlaid/repainted streets that are wide enough. With the election of Sandra Sistrunk to the Board of Aldermen, Ward 2 will need a rep on the city's sidewalk committee.

Safe Routes to School: This committee needs a co-chair. SRTS will be active this fall including many education and outreach activities in grades 4-8, the inception of walking school buses, and more. All our education money from the grant must be spent by June 2010. Day One students will work with SRTS. If you can help, contact Lois Connington <[lconning@nwp.org](mailto:lconning@nwp.org)> Three people completed the Bike League certification and will do bike safety trainings in the schools for SRTS. We hope to have an SRTS table at the Starkville Schools' Community Health Fair on August 5th from 10-1. If you can help, again, contact Devon. This would be handing out brochures, teaching students bike hand signals, maybe signing families up for walking school buses, etc.

Wheel-a-thon: We decided to have another Wheel-a-thon this fall, in cooperation with 52 Moms. Kate Fabel will select a date soon, and funds will go to the children's room at the Starkville Public Library. Watch for more. Last year's funds were donated to Parks and Rec. The swings we funded haven't yet been constructed but Parks and Rec assure us they are on their way.

City Government: We've had several meetings with city officials etc. of late: Joe Fratesi and Ron Cossman met with the new Parks and Rec director, City Engineer Edward Kemp met with Parks and Rec about the design of Lynn Lane, and Joe met with GSDP about becoming Bike Friendly community. We will need to reach out to newly elected officials soon. Kathy Jacobs is putting together a press packet, a collection of bound materials we can use to introduce ourselves to elected officials and others. Jeremy Murdock is working on a planning/smart growth/design of sidewalks and bike lanes type workshop for early fall. Devon will meet with the new mayor soon. We should

probably also meet with the Parks and Rec commission and other boards to continue to build ties. Nisreen Cain is working with city officials and other service groups to enroll Starkville in the Keep America Beautiful program. SIM supports this effort, it is consistent with Complete Streets, becoming a Bike Friendly community etc. She'll keep us posted on these efforts.

Lynn Lane: There's another hitch in the Lynn Lane project. Before engineering can be done, MDOT requires a "cultural study," a previously un-communicated requirement. Engineering consultants will present at the next Board of Aldermen meeting to explain this issue and share the timeline. More soon, we hope.

Arts Walking Tour: About 150 people participated in the Opening Day events, artists were at local shops, we got a ton of great publicity. Now, brochures are in all the stops along the way, and CVB is sending the brochure when it mails out information to folks interested in Starkville. Thanks go to Kathy Jacobs for organizing this collaboration with so many other local groups.

#### Other

Jeremy Murdock noted that Oxford has a strong and very successful bike/sidewalks group who have built much infrastructure, partly through leadership of their mayor's office. He will try to schedule a visit where some SIM representatives go up and meet with Oxford organizers to learn how they did it.

The GSDP wondered if Starkville should apply to be a Bike Friendly community. This designation, from the League of American Bicyclists, would be great, however, the application process is lengthy, requiring a variety of things such as bike-friendly city policies, and more. Starkville may not yet be ready but SIM will work with the City and GSDP to move us in this direction and help the city apply if there is interest and if the city is eligible.

About 45 people participated in Bike to Work Day last April. Thanks to the Starkville Central Neighborhood Foundation and Michelle Jones for helping with this.

About 45 people participated in a Janes Walk, a historical tour of downtown.

Several hundred people participated in Earth Day on campus. SIM had a big and well-visited table at this event.