

# **Etobicoke South Cycling Committee (ESCC)**

## Minutes

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Present:** Robert (acting chair), Ted, Stephen, Yeung, Barb, Ryan, Elysia, Peggy, Terry, Liana, Tom, Jim, Anthony, Tim, Carole

**Regrets:** David

### **1. Etobicoke Creek Trail**

Robert reported that the Etobicoke Creek trail extension under the QEW overpass at Sherway is going through final approvals from MoE and MTO; construction should begin this Summer, and may be completed by late 2014.

### **2. Doable Neighbourhood Project**

Elysia Leung and Ryan O'Connor from **8-80 Cities** (non-profit organization based in Toronto) explained that four communities were recipients of the Doable Neighbourhood Project (DNP): South Etobicoke, Cochrane, St. Thomas and downtown Brampton.

The project area in **New Toronto** is within a two kilometre radius, bordered by Birmingham Street, Kipling Avenue, Lake Ontario and Royal York Rd.

The 8-80 Cities organization (formerly Walk + Bike for Life) is all about helping to transform cities into places where people can walk, cycle, access public transit, and visit vibrant parks and public places. Their approach is to engage communities at all levels and across multiple sectors, to inspire the creation of cities that are easily accessible, safe, and enjoyable for all.

The Doable Neighbourhood Project is a practical and participatory approach to healthy communities. 8-80 Cities will work with each community to develop three pilot projects that can be implemented in the short term, and will help your neighbourhood become a great place for walking, cycling and visiting vibrant places.

"*Happy City*" by Charles Montgomery is an example of a healthy community's project. Listen to the CBC interview with Charles Montgomery here:

<http://www.cbc.ca/tapestry/mobile/touch/episode/2014/03/07/bummed-out-blame-it-on-your-city/>

It was noted that many good things are already happening in South Etobicoke, albeit separately; something is needed to tie them all together.

8-80 Cities and ESCC will host a **Visioning Session** (Thur. May 15) at Humber College. We will invite local community groups (e.g. CCFEW, FOSS, LEAF, SETAC, etc), plus local politicians (all 3 levels of government) to brainstorm about some pilot projects that can kick-start community improvements.

A discussion ensued and a number of suggestions emerged for a possible event during Culture Days on September 26-28. Humber College in partnership with Lakeshore Arts are the prime organizers of this event.

The group discussed expanding the mandate of **Culture Days** to include cycling activities (bike clinic at Humber, BIXI satellite sub-area), the creation of a temporary Town Square, a Market, a Repair Café, human chess games, gorilla DIY campaigns, talent in the park, etc. The group suggested to contact community groups, school principals, Assembly Hall(?), BIAs and politicians to ensure maximum number of participants. Eventbrite could be used to help register participants. It was noted that there were 2000 visits to Culture Days in 2013.

A small working group (6-8 people) was formed to work with 8-80Cities on pilot projects.

### **3. TDSB declares Bike to School Day - May 26**

At the TDSB Board meeting on March 12, Pamela Gough moved a motion, which was passed, to establish a new TDSB Bike to School Day to be held May 26 - in conjunction with the City of Toronto's Bike to Work Day.

Barb K (Urban Racks) has graciously volunteered to donate a bike rack to the school that has the highest percentage of participants on Bike to School Day. Barb is working with the TDSB re details of the offer and logistics.

### **4. Bike Racks available for Schools**

As part of the Active Transportation Charter of the TDSB, the EcoSchools office (Diane) has been allocated funding of \$100,000 over four years to put new bike racks into schools. EcoSchools will be drawing up a process to ensure allotment of new bike racks is done in a way that is fair, and makes effective use of the limited resources available.

Wedgewood, George R. Gauld, and Park Lawn are already approved to receive new bike racks in the Spring; and John English, James S. Bell and David Hornell received bike racks last year.

## **Safe Routes to School**

In relation to TDSB items above, we had a discussion about Safe Routes to School, aka Safe Travel Plan (STP). This is a project that ESCC could work with parent/teacher groups at schools and TDSB. Some ideas included: using LAMP parking lot as a temp bike clinic for students; implementing 30-kmh speed limit around schools.

### **5. Ward Captain Meeting**

This item was deferred to the next meeting. (David J.)

### **6. Humber College**

Tom reported that Humber College is proposing to hold an event during orientation week (end of August). They are hoping to get the students involved in some sort of activity with the local shop owners in the area. The group recommended a few shops in the area that might be interested in working with Humber College. These are: Village Vinyl, Big Guys Coffee Shop (647-297-7416, Steve), Great Canadian Tattoo (416-503-4513), Cycle Butik (647-258-0012, Thomas), Oxygen Bikes (416-259-2453, ShawnF) and Burrito Boys. Humber is looking into renting a small cache of bicycles for use by students in the event.

### **7. Next Meeting**

Our next ESCC meeting is (tentatively) scheduled for Tues. April 15, at Among Friends.