

**Joint Meeting of “Springfield Needs a Bike Park” and “WalkBike Springfield”**  
**South End Neighborhood Council Office – 510 Main Street**  
**May 9, 2019 Meeting Notes**

Attending: Over 85 individuals, including Sargent Kwatowski and other officers, Councilors Lederman and Gomez, School Committee member Maria Perez, WalkBike Springfield activists, youth bicycle riders, parents, other community activists. Channel 22 News interviewed attendees.

WalkBike Springfield teamed up with Springfield Needs a Bike Park (now to be known as 413 Wheels Park committee). Yolanda Cancel chaired the gathering and encouraged all to be able voice their concerns and ideas related to bicycling safety and behavior, and about developing a non-motorized wheel (skate/bike) park for Springfield. Representatives from many factions of the City were there to meet each other and develop common goals for the good of the City.

There were short presentations from individuals providing bicycle services in Springfield, including:

Bob Charland with Pedal Thru Youth, Inc who repairs and donates bicycles through schools and local police; Alex Weck with RAD Springfield who works with youth to repair bicycles and earn bicycles; Councilors Lederman and Gomez who said the City Council will set up a Bike Park Subcommittee; Shannon Bliven with ValleyBikes who explained about the cost of the bicycle-share pedal-assist bicycles and the danger of riding in the front baskets.

The police asked for bicyclists to not interfere with traffic and obey rules of the road. There was discussion about the need for clarifying the rules and the need for publicizing them. <https://www.massbike.org/laws>.

Todd Crosset mentioned that a new City ordinance just passed that allows for bicycle riding on sidewalks, except in the downtown. Cyclists must yield to pedestrians. It was suggested that we need more of the police to be on bicycles.

Youth described incidents where they and their parents were treated improperly. A number of the youth felt distrust of the police. Agreed that more two-way conversation is needed.

Items desired in a Wheels parks were listed and drawn (attached). A map of a possible Park location on Carew Street by the Boys & Girls Club were distributed. (attached)

The 413 Wheels Park Committee will have regular meetings on the third Wednesday of the month: May 15, June 17 Aug. 21. <https://www.facebook.com/events/641254729673538/>

Other business: promotion of the Walk & Roll, Complete Streets Demonstration on Saturday, May 11. Also that Bike Week is May 11 – 19, with events throughout the Pioneer Valley.

The next meetings of WalkBike Springfield will be on  
June 13 at PVPC, 60 Congress Street @ 6 PM  
July 11 at PVPC, 60 Congress Street @ 6 PM