

Events – Bike and Walk to School Day

Mrs. Wakan provided status of the upcoming Bike and Walk to School Day to be held May 6. She noted that the mayor would not be able to attend, and that Kim Parrish in the Mayor's office of the City of Farmington would be inviting city councilors to participate. Also, a UMATTR teen would be participating, as well as athletes from Heights. Ms. Maurer will work on organizing the busses to park at the College for students of Mesa Verde. Mrs. Wakan noted that she is coordinating to have Eddie Eagle, PV Panther, and Mr. Heart to participate at schools as well. There will be prizes again for those who walk or bike. She reviewed assignments with members of the group.

Officer Paquin will confirm with the District Coordinators and the Traffic Unit of the Police Department for their participation. He described the Explorers program for young people in which they learn about and participate in the work of the Police Department and that it can lead to admission into the Police Academy. The group is also a part of the Boy Scouts of America. Mrs. Wakan asked school representatives to add the event to their school marquees. She agreed with Ms. Johnson that the event would be called Bike and Walk to School Day, adding the word Walk. Mrs. Wakan said will supply prizes for that event.

Evaluation

Mr. Fillerup said that the MPO is currently working on an update to its long range transportation plan for the area. Safe Routes to School work is included in the plan and he will send an e-mail to be distributed by Mrs. Wakan. The group is invited to provide feedback about how the plan addresses Safe Routes to School.

Other Concerns

Officer Paquin raised the topic of the need to have more education about walking to school. He pointed out that many people still pass in school zones, with examples such as College and 30th Street, Knudsen and 20th Street. The groups discussed that they could use newspaper ads and public service announcements with San Juan Safe Communities. Ms. Johnson pointed out the value of a police presence at school. Officer Paquin agreed, and that they usually are at school during the first week to remind everyone that school has begun and to be aware of the laws in school zones. The Police Department is often short-handed and they do have help from the Fire Department, too. They have to balance this with the need to have staff available for calls for service. The Police Department is down to 5 school resource officers at 18 schools. Ms. Nord said she was going to give people air horns! (Just checking to see who read it.) The group discussed ideas for increasing education and awareness of safety around school zones, including banners on fire engines parked at schools, police vehicles present, flyers, notice of red painted curbs for no parking and drop off, and increased participation with the school board.

Mrs. Wakan stated that the next meeting will be held at Mesa Verde, there will be no meeting in June, and the meeting in July will be at the MPO. The meeting adjourned.