



**Fringe Benefits Committee
Meeting Minutes
5/15/2012**

In Attendance: Karen McColl, Barb Juknialis, Jennifer Loudiana, Amy Sheldon, Vanessa Forro (guest)

Minutes from the April 2012 meeting were approved.

The only order of business that was discussed was the Bicycle Initiative.

Vanessa Forro, who is a research assistant in the School of Medicine, presented her Sustainable Transportation report that she compiled for a recent class she took. The 17 page report, which was sent to the subcommittee via email from Barb on May 7th, examined the many options available for sustainable transportation initiatives. Some of the major points of this report that were discussed during our meeting include:

- The VA currently offers a Qualified Bicycle Commuting Subsidy toward bicycle expenses if you use a non-motorized bicycle to travel to work at least 50% of the month
- VA employees are reimbursed up to \$20 a month (tax-free) with a yearly amount not to exceed \$240. Reimbursement is in the form of a voucher to be used at area bicycle shops who have agreed to participate in the program.
- The voucher can be used for anything pertaining to riding a bicycle such as a bike, bicycle wear, lock, lights, racks, repairs or general maintenance
- For this type of program to work at Case we would ideally need someone to manage the program.
- Participants would need to somehow verify that they do indeed bike to work at least 50% of the time. This could be done with a tracking log or a monthly pledge that the biker would sign.
- Vouchers could be distributed monthly, quarterly or even biannually.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History is planning to build a Sustainable Intermodal Transportation Facility on the space currently occupied by their outdoor surface lot. This facility is slated to be open to the public by February 2015. This space will have showers and lockers for bike commuters to use and electrical hookups for charging electrical cars and buses. This will address a major concern of bicycle commuters who feel there is no place on campus to clean up after riding to work.

Another concern of bicycle commuters is their unwillingness to give up their parking permits because there are times when they still need to drive to work. Vanessa's report suggested setting up a certain number of parking spots in area garages that would be used only for bike commuters who would pay to use those spots for the day. The cost would be lower than the daily rate charged in those garages for visitors

Vanessa also told us more about the Bicycle Co-op that is just in the beginning stages on campus. The co-op will basically be a "go to" place for all things bicycle-related. It will have bicycle education/safety sessions, provide emergency maintenance on-site, and also run a "rent-a-bike" program where you can get a bike for an hour during your lunch or for up to a few days, depending on



your need. Right now the group is trying to identify some space on campus where they can set up their shop. They are also working with campus security to see if the many bikes they have in their possession could be used for the rent-a-bike program. Security already registers all bikes on campus and gives out free bike locks.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen McColl