

Minutes of the General Assembly 2014

Wednesday 22 October 2014
Sydney / Australia

Meeting Notes

1. Opening of the 2014 Assembly by Geert van Waeg

2. Attendees

Geert van Waeg	johanna.be, Belgium	voting member	call-in
Mario Alves	ACA-M, Portugal	voting member	call-in
Ellen Vanderslice	America Walks, USA	voting member	call-in
Christian Thomas	Fussgängerverein Zürich, Switzerland	*	call-in
Gregory Mavrakis	Enosi Pezon, Greece	voting member	call-in
Lotte Bech	Fodgaenger Forbund, Denmark	voting member	call-in
Tom Dhollander	Voetgangersbeweging, Belgium	voting member	call-in
Dieter Schwab***	walk-space.at, Austria	voting member	call-in
Tom Platt	living streets UK	voting member	on-site
Ben Rossiter	Victoria Walks, Australia	voting member	on-site
Andy Smith	Living Streets Aotearoa, New Zealand	voting member	on-site
Scott Bricker	America Walks, USA	**	on-site
Bronwen Thornton	Walk21	voting member	on-site
John Wetmore	Perils for Pedestrians, USA		on-site
Jacky Kennedy	Canada Walks, Canada	voting member	on-site

* Christian has retired and is no longer representing Fussverkehr Schweiz. He was hence not a voting member at the start of the meeting. He is however representing Fussgängerverein Zürich, which applied for membership. Membership was granted during this meeting (see further), so Christian became voting member again.

** vote shared with Ellen

*** came in later (connection didn't work initially).

3. Election of President and secretary of the Assembly

Chair for the Assembly: Geert van Waeg

Secretary for the General Assembly: Bronwen Thornton

4. Comments to the Minutes from 2013 Assembly in München, Germany

The Minutes of the last General Assembly were accepted.

5. Report from the Presidency of IPF – Activities during last year

OECD and ITF (International Transport Forum) - Ole Thorson and Dieter Schwab

- Ole and Dieter attended the ITF meeting in Leipzig in 2014. They distributed the vision and mission statement of the IFP. It was a good meeting and worthwhile being present as it had a mobility focus. No specific actions to follow.

UNECE Working Party 1 (WP1) – this is the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

- no specific activity so far. Christian attended the meetings a number of years ago, but is in doubt that there is value in occasionally attending. Given the energy and patience needed to get anything through, he would rather first build a list of items we want to work on, and come with a package to the meetings when they happen. Geert sees value in re-assessing the way to participate in WP1. One concrete suggestion is to start working around signs and signals for pedestrians, and take it from there to the broader list of items to work on.

ACTION: Mario, Jacky and Christian to collate list with input from Ben and Geert

United Nations Road Safety Collaboration (UNRSC) - Geert van Waeg

- Geert continued to actively participate into the UNRSC meetings and activities, to make sure that the voice of the pedestrians is heard when decisions or recommendations are made regarding road safety. Much effort concentrates around the preparation of a “How-to road safety solutions” brochure that wants to give guidance on cost-effective measures for road safety improvements. Since much of the original input was generated by more classically car-safety oriented professionals, much lobbying is needed to get this document into a balance taking all transport modes into consideration. Some progress has been made, but it is not yet done.
- The third United Nations Road Safety Week will be held in May 2015. The theme will be Children and Road Safety. Initial tendency was to focus much of the actions around safety of school zones and traffic education of children. With input and support from some board members, we pushed hard to reduce focus on schools and expand to all areas where children can be (hence basically all public space) and to expand from focus on education of children into engineering (safe roads, with emphasis on car speed), enforcement and education (but not only of the children, but at least at much of their parents too). Rather than teaching them how to survive the jungle, we are responsible for not creating the jungle). The preparative documents and the focus of the Week definitely moved well into this more desirable direction.
- Tom - May is Living Streets National Walking Month and they can link the Road Safety Week with Walking to School. Tom to report back on the idea.
- Scott - they have partners who can promote and elevate what is already happening and share information
- Jacky - the Report Card on Youth Canada and Australia both got D - which links back to the need for better infrastructure - this could be used as leverage to support a campaign.
- Bronwen - perhaps we needed a single, universal focus to take forward to the year and highlight during Road Safety Week - something common to everyone - perhaps ‘Crossing the Road’.
- Ellen - supported the idea and perhaps to use social media to promote actions: Flickr, Instagram, YouTube
- Jacky - their Walk to School pages can be a resource for parents and platform for the idea.
- Christian - WHO is responsible for safe way - different in different countries
- Agreed to focus on a Common Platform.

NGO Alliance on road safety and victim support

- there were no specific actions of the alliance this year. A new summit is expected in 2015

Facebook - Mario

- Mario manages our Facebook page and posts on a regular basis. We did not yet really make any effort to publicise it among our members, but plan to start doing so. As of today we have 1,088 subscribers (half of them are English speakers). Each post generates an average of 100-500 views. One post went viral.
- Mario needs help to keep up to date - members very welcome to post - or send to him to post. Ben very happy to support Mario.

ACTION: All members to send posts to Mario for Facebook. Ben to directly support Mario. Any members wanting to get directly involved to contact Mario.

Website – Mario

- our website is not only outdated with respect to look and feel, but is now basically shut down as the software is unsupported. Mario took the challenge to build a new website. This project recently has started and he has setup a Wordpress site.

ACTION: Mario to continue working on the website with support from Bronwen

Other congresses and presentations

- Mário and Geert were present in a meeting in December 2013 MOVING IN EUROPE: MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS' MOBILITY FROM A CIVIC POINT OF VIEW.
- Mário opened as a keynote speaker the [CIVITAS Forum Conference 2014](#) in Casablanca with a presentation: [Walking the talk: low-cost high benefit solutions for planning accessibility](#) (pdf with notes in attachment). 400 mobility professionals from most European countries attended.

6. Projects in 2013-14.

Living end roads, Geert van Waeg

- In Belgium, the project really got some traction. We estimate that today between 5,000 and 10,000 of the approximately 35,000 dead-end signs have been converted to living end signs. Some 20% of municipalities have ordered stickers to adapt their dead end signs, and sign providers have the ready-made living end signs in their catalogue. One province recently decided to stimulate all its municipalities to participate by providing the stickers.
- After much lobbying from Ole in Barcelona, Catalunya finally started putting out living end signs, starting in Barcelona. They opted for a more expensive way with an “uppersign”, a sign of similar size as the more known “undersigns”, but placed above the original dead end sign.
- Thanks to the lobby work of Andy and Living Streets Aotearoa, “the draft Auckland Transport Code of Practice” has a requirement that all new ‘No Exit’ street signage must include an indication that there is an access way from the street if one exists”. “A programme for retro-fitting signage on existing cul-de-sacs is being explored through road maintenance programmes”.
- US: the study done at Portland State University was not a great success (the task was seen slightly different so that the outcome was not very relevant for the project). Currently no further steps were taken. However, we start seeing on a very local scale some undersigns for living end signs, albeit focused on cyclists only so far
- Canada: an undersign has been proposed in Ontario to be placed under the “no exit” sign, with icons of bicycle and pedestrian and the mentioning of which street they can reach.

7. Projects for 2014 and beyond

1. Communication

Once the website is renewed, we plan to start a newsletter at a TBD frequency, at least every 3 months. This would also be the possibility for members to share their work

2. Expand Living End Streets as opportunities emerge

3. Road Safety Week and the Common Platform (perhaps Crossing the Street) as noted

8. Proposals for new membership of IFP, changes of representatives.

1. MENSenSTRAAT

MENSenSTRAAT (STREETS for ALL) is a network in the Netherlands, aiming to make every street safe and enjoyable for all sorts of people in their various walks of life, helping:

- o *Pedestrians and Cyclists* to move on safe routes in a healthy lifestyle;
- o *Passengers* to find attractive routes to/from public transport;
- o *Children* to play and expand their world;
- o *Youngsters* to go around town independently;
- o *People with functional limitations* to participate in daily life;
- o *Senior Citizens* to keep on living at home in their own neighbourhood;
- o *Neighbours* to meet one another informally;
- o *Residents* to add personal elements to the streetscape;
- o *Visitors* to enjoy other places and watch people go by;
- o *Entrepreneurs* to serve the needs of people on the street;
- o *Passers-by* to keep an eye on the street, enhancing social safety.

OUTCOME: Membership of MENSenSTRAAT was approved. Welcome!

2. Fussgängerverein Zurich

The Zurich Association of Pedestrians has been founded in the 1970ies as part of a movement for ecological mobility. The board of the association collaborates with the city, but uses different possibilities to place complaints, objections and appeals as well in order to improve infrastructure projects, and road safety for pedestrians. The voice of the pedestrians is heard, but of course it is hard to make it effective. The association works on a voluntary basis.

OUTCOME: Membership of Fussgängerverein Zurich was approved. Welcome!

3. As Tony left Living Streets UK, we have no one on the board for now from Living Streets UK.

9. By-laws of IFP, and other administrative work

No further activity - need to consider impact on secretarial role of constitutional switch to another European country.

ACTION: Bronwen to discuss with Geert

10. Election of President and Vice-presidents of IFP, and other board members.

Christian Thomas retired from Fussverkehr and resigns as secretary. He was thanked for his efforts over the years. However, it was uncertain if IFP, as constituted, could continue without someone from Switzerland in this role.

ACTION: Bronwen to discuss with Geert

Tony Armstrong has left Living Streets UK and resigns from the board.

Due to time constraints - it was agreed the Board would continue for another year while the constitutional issues are resolved.

11. Any other business

Scott - we need to build network and then campaign together. How do we find out what is going on amongst all the different groups? Would benefit from learning about trends and themes being worked on - what's working well, success stories

Tom - an email group would be helpful

Ben - Facebook good for the public but other channels needed for professionals

Would it be good to have a prepared statement on pedestrian deaths - like the cyclists have? The White Bikes is a powerful campaign - do we consider 'ghosts' ??? potentially quite controversial, but then perhaps White Bikes were once.

ACTION: there is a need for a stronger hub for IFP - perhaps with some funding support - Bronwen to discuss with Geert