



**INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION OF  
PEDESTRIANS**

## **General Assembly in Toronto Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**

Metro Hall, Toronto, Canada 5pm – 6pm

### **Participation:**

Ole Thorson (Catalunya Camina, Spain)  
Ellen Vanderslice (America Walks, USA)  
Liz Thomas (Living Streets Aoteaora, New Zealand)  
Jim Walker (Walk21)  
Dieter Schwab (Walk-Space.at, Austria)  
Stefan van der Spek (Holland)  
Marlène Butz (Fussverkehr Schweiz, Switzerland)  
John Wetmore (Perils for Pedestrians, USA)  
Geert van Waeg, (Johanna.be, Belgium).  
Thomas Schweizer, (Fussverkehr Schweiz, Switzerland)  
Paul Disney (UK)

### Excused:

Eduardo J. Daros (Brazilian Pedestrian Association, Brasil)  
Terence Bendixson (Living Streets, GB, FEPA)  
Grigoris Mavrakis, (Enosi Pezon, Greece)

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### **1. Welcome by the President Ole Thorson**

Ole Thorson opened the General Assembly and thanked everyone for coming.

Noted Tom Franklin is no more working for Living Streets UK. (He now works for The Ramblers Association in UK).

### **2. Activities 2006**

The Activity Report 2006 is accepted.

### **3. Flyer IFP**

Jim offered to revise the text to improve the English and to reflect the priorities agreed for the activity of IFP. Thomas to provide copy as a word file.

### **4. Action Plan**

The co-operation and the differences between IFP and Walk21 were discussed. Their parallel working and collaboration was appreciated. In summary it was noted that Walk21 largely support

professionals and technicians. IFP focuses on community organisations and their relations to official bodies.

#### **4.1 Dissemination of the Charter**

IFP is engaged with the dissemination of the International Charter for Walking.

Stefan van der Spek will translate it into Dutch and send it to Jim and Christian for uploading on the Walk21 and IFP websites.

Ellen Vanderslice will look into asking a friend if they can translate it into Chinese.

It was agreed that there should be greater clarification on the difference between an individual who signs, and an institution or a Government on the Walk21 website.

#### **4.2 How to choose the Voting Members**

*In some countries there is more than one pedestrian organisation. In some countries like in Spain there is no national organisation, but there are organisations in certain cities. In other countries like in the USA and Switzerland, there are national organisations and statewide local organisations. In Italy there is a national organisation which is not member of IFP (and not very active), but we could ask local organisations to join.*

- *Should IFP include local and regional pedestrian organisations as members, or national ones only?*
- *Should there be a limit on how many pedestrian organisations per country may be voting members? (In Switzerland there is a national one and two independent local ones)*
- *Should IFP accept as voting members only associations open to all for membership or also other forms of organisations such as Foundations? (The Bulgarian member-organisation is a Foundation, Australia has a «Pedestrian Council» which is a Foundation)*

The problem was just briefly discussed, but no viable solution was found. The Secretary should make a proposal within a year.

#### **4.3 Activities**

Jim Walker proposed that the Action Plan for IFP should focus on three key issues:

- **Encouraging new community led organisations for pedestrians and supporting existing ones.**

Jim suggested IFP could produce a 'How to set up a Group guide' and produce some case studies of the different models that have been used in different countries. He also suggested producing a sheet of frequently asked questions to help support new groups forming and encourage established groups to become better and learn from each other. This initiative he described as a quick win.

- **Promotion**

Jim suggested IFP could focus on representing the needs of pedestrians in international forums. He suggested IFP should invite members to list and help rank key organisations that they could potentially influence on issues such as health and road safety. It was noted that IFP would have to manage their ambitions within the resources that they have available to them. This initiative he described as a medium term area of work.

- **Launch IFP-Projects**

Jim suggested that IFP may wish to consider developing and coordinating specific projects for pedestrians at an international scale and seeking funding for them. Jim described the evolving discussions that the Walk21 Board were having which might lead to an International Pedestrian Masterclass being established following the success of the Canadian Masterclass roadshow earlier in 2007. He described the potential for IFP to be part of the masterclass project, setting up of pedestrian advocacy groups in communities. Jim described this initiative as probably a longer term area of work for IFP. Ole and Jim agreed to talk more about the masterclass initiative and to keep an open mind about IFPs involvement as the project develops.

There seemed to be a general agreement for this as a way forward for IFP.

(No formal decision was taken.)

## **5. Cooperations and Memberships**

*So far, IFP is member of the following organisations which support activities in favour of pedestrians:*

- *International Cooperation on Theories and Concepts in Traffic Safety ICTCT*  
*This small international organisation has an active pedestrian safety group.*
- *European Transport Safety Council ETSC*  
*The ETSC is very active in Europe, trying to reach higher standards of road safety, in particular for the most vulnerable road users. Since the European Pedestrian organisation FEPA is not constituted yet, IFP has to represent the pedestrians in this organisation.*

**ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability** is an international association of local governments and national and regional local organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. More than 630 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership.

*ICLEI has asked us if we want to join the **EcoMobility** initiative, which is a long range project to promote sustainable mobility in cities. The project is supposed to be sponsored by Shimano and other bicycle companies. Do we want to join? If yes, are there conditions?*

The membership or partnership with EcoMobility (see [www.ecomobility.org](http://www.ecomobility.org)) was discussed. A definite step is not yet mature since too many questions are still open. It is not clear how the organisation will develop. In many instances the pedestrian movement has made the experience that organisations, committees and commissions that are supposed to work in favour of walking and bicycling in reality just work for the bicycles.

## **6. Elections**

*The members of the **Board** have been elected in 2007 for a term of two years.*

*New members may be elected. Possibly a **Treasurer** may be elected.*

No-one of the persons present wants to become treasurer. Ellen could do it, but she thinks that someone from Europe would be better. The Secretary should make a proposal for the next meeting.

## **7. Delegates**

*So far, IFP has an official delegate only at the **United Nations** in Geneva (Christian Thomas). In addition, we should have a person that represents IFP at the UN headquarters in New York, because IFP often get invitations to participate in some meeting, and in most cases it is not possible*

*to attend meetings and workshops connected with air travel. In addition IFP should have a person representing IFP in Nairobi (UNEP, HABITAT) Vienna (UNOPS), and all the cities with regional representations (Bangkok, Beirut, Addis Abeba, Santiago de Chile).*

*Of course, It would be interesting to have persons delegated to get involved in more international work in cities like Brussels and Washington.*

*Anyone interested in getting engaged as an IFP delegate in his/her home country please speak up. Anyone knowing an engaged pedestrian in one of the above cities, please send an information to the Secretary.*

Dieter Schwab signs up to represent IFP in Vienna.

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Thomas Schweizer, November 5, 2007