

Onondaga County Traffic Safety Advisory Board
January 21, 2003
Revised Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Donald Barrett
Warren Darby
Mike Davison
Frank DeGennaro
Diana Dibble
John Hayes
Debbie Kogut
John Leo
Laura Madelone
Glenn Murdock
Mike Orso
Phil Politano
Mary Rowlands
Kay Staley-Smith
Shannon Trice

Organization:

Avid
Onondaga County Sheriff's Department
Think First
New York State Police
AAA
P&C
Onondaga County Health Department
Onondaga County DOT
Syracuse University
Syracuse Utilities Inc.
Nick Orso's
Rural Metro
SMTC
DMV
Syracuse Police

Stakeholders Attending:

Ann Barnett
Gerry Deitz
Charles Jones*
Bill Loucks
William Mulroy
Barry Stevens
Pat Wortley

Organization

Onondaga County Health Department
CNYRTA
New York State Police
West Genesee Central School District
NYS Thruway Authority
NYS DOT
SMTC

* *Designee*

Excused:

Bill McAnelly, Syracuse Supply; Linda McKinnon, Ross Limousine; and Liz Morgan, Onondaga County Stop DWI.

1. Welcome

Kay Staley-Smith, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Ms. Staley-Smith inquired if there were any changes/corrections to the November 12, 2002 minutes. Being none, Ms. Staley-Smith called for a vote. Mr. Murdock moved and Mr. Orso seconded a motion approving the November 12, 2002 minutes. The motion was approved.

3. Committee Updates

Youth: Lt. Trice stated that the Syracuse Police would be working with Syracuse University on alcohol stings.

Project Planning: Ms. Rowlands stated that she is inquiring of this Committee if there is a desire to be in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Ms. Staley-Smith noted that previously Ms. Kogut and Ms. Barnett organized the OCTSAB being in the parade. Ms. Kogut and Ms. Barnett are involved with other activities on parade day at the Oncenter. Additionally, there is a \$100 fee for being in the parade. It was decided that the OCTSAB would not be represented in this year's parade.

Ms. Rowlands stated that she has been in contact with County Executive Nick Pirro in regards to the OCTSAB having a website. She is in contact with the County's Information Technology (IT) people. The SMTC Webmaster will be developing a site for the OCTSAB. Her intention is to have links available from member agencies' websites to the OCTSAB site on the County's site.

Lights On: Mr. Barrett thanked all those who helped with the December 14th event. Mr. Barrett stated that the December 6, 2003 event would be the 20th year of Lights On. Additionally, Mr. Barrett noted this would be his final year running the event. He has a co-chair, Linda Dempster, helping him out for the 2003 event. Mr. Barrett would like to have a car from every school district in Onondaga County in the event. He is looking into obtaining magnetic signs for the cars.

Nominating: Mr. Deitz stated that the committee has recommended that the same officers hold the positions for the 2003 term. Open nominations were accepted from the floor. Being none, Ms. Staley-Smith moved and Mr. Murdock seconded approval of the slate of officers. Motion carried. Ms. Staley-Smith noted that in order to be an OCTSAB board member, you must reside in Onondaga County. Five new board members have been added: Undersheriff Darby, Capt. DeGennaro, Mr. Leo, Ms. Madelone and Lt. Trice. Some former board members have now become stakeholders.

Awards Breakfast: Mr. Deitz stated that the January 14th Awards Breakfast went well. However, he was disappointed in the fact that there was no press coverage of the event. Ms. Kogut and Ms. Dibble stated that press releases were sent out prior to the event. A listing of the recipients was sent in the January 15th mailing. Ms. Dibble has a separate listing of the AAA award winners.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that she is looking to expand the awards next year to include people from the community. She asked that during the next year that if you hear or see anything pertinent to traffic safety that you let Mr. Deitz know.

Mr. Barrett noted that he has received a lot of positive response to Nick Orso's Body Shop advertisements and thanked Mr. Orso for producing the ads.

Legislative: Ms. Dibble stated that she had a handout relative to the new laws passed in 2002. Ms. Dibble highlighted the passage of the .08 Blood Alcohol Level (BAL), which goes into effect in March 2003; the new pedestrian safety law, which took effect January 20, 2003; and the junior licensing law, which goes into effect in September 2003. Ms. Dibble stated that efforts would continue to address the booster seat loophole law.

Seat Belt Tracking: Mr. Murdock stated that they currently do not have the DMV information they requested, but it is forthcoming. The next meeting will be on January 29, 2003.

Business and Industry: Mr. Murdock stated that the committee met on January 9, 2003. At this time there is not another meeting set up. Mr. Murdock is looking at getting new members in and providing them with training.

New Membership Committee: Mr. Murdock stated that they have developed a new application for membership. Ms. Staley-Smith stated she would be e-mailing all members regarding prospective new members. She also stated that they would be getting business information from the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Murdock is working on developing a vehicle window decal. If you have any ideas, please get them to him.

Onondaga County Heath Department Update: Ms. Kogut provided those present with her departmental report. Ms. Kogut noted the upcoming LOOK program being held in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Kogut stated that in 2002, 3,183 helmets were distributed. Ms. Kogut also noted that in 2002, there were 20 pedestrian fatalities.

There will be a local Traffic Safety Grants meeting on February 25, 2003 at the DMV. Ms. Staley-Smith noted that she has some serious concerns given last year's funding cuts. Ms. Staley-Smith noted that she has asked Brad Swartz from the GTSC to address funding issues and it was decided that Ms. Staley-Smith should invite Mr. Swartz to the February 25th meeting. Ms. Madelone inquired if there was a list of priorities. Ms. Staley-Smith stated there was not at this time. Ms. Barnett stated that the buzz is around "impaired driving" which is not a local grant. Ms. Kogut noted that Child Passenger Safety would continue to have funding for one more year. Mr. Swartz has informed Lt. Trice that there was funding available for scanners.

Round Table Discussions:

Ms. Kogut noted that National Safe Kids week starts on May 10th. An event is being planned for the May 9th Skychief's game. The theme this year will be "Wrap Your Arms Around Safety". There will be a meeting of the Safe Kids Bicycle group on January 22nd. Ms. Kogut is looking for more representation from OCTSAB members.

Undersheriff Darby demonstrated one of the new traffic scanners that will be used by the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department (OCSD). Onondaga County has received 10 scanners under a pilot program. The Undersheriff gave an overview of how the scanners

will work and stated that the deputy would be able to print tickets/forms from his patrol car. Ms. Rowlands noted the recent Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) project being undertaken in the Syracuse area. She stated that initiatives such as this would qualify for federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds. Capt. DeGennaro stated the ITS will put a mechanism in place to control traffic in Central New York. He cited the example of Variable Message Boards (VMB) being used to alert drivers of accidents. Cameras would monitor traffic. This will be a joint effort between local law enforcement agencies and the NYS Department of Transportation.

Mr. Orso spoke relative to law enforcement officials referring individuals to certain garages following accidents rather than allowing the individual to make their own choice. Discussion followed on the topic. Mr. Orso was urged, as president of two state auto associations, to contact the various law enforcement agencies in regard to the practice.

Ms. Field introduced herself as the Trauma Nurse Coordinator at University Hospital.

Ms. Madelone distributed information relative to two upcoming events at Syracuse University. The first, The American Campus and Alcohol Conference, will be held March 9-11, 2003. The second was for an Audio Conference relative to Alcohol and Crime on College Campuses on February 6th. She welcomed participation from OCTSAB members at both events.

Mr. Stevens stated that ITS VMB's would be used to display lake effect snow warning conditions when the sun is out and within a short distance there is a snowstorm. These signs will advise motorists to use caution and/or find alternate routes/plans.

Mr. Politano stated that Rural Metro Corporation has undertaken a major safety improvement project. Mr. Politano spoke relative to the poor driving skills of those who are taking advanced driving courses. Ms. Staley-Smith noted that she had seen a driving simulator used at a recent conference and would look into obtaining information about the use of the simulator locally. Ms. Madelone stated that maybe it could be a cooperative effort between various agencies and businesses to "rent" the simulator.

Ms. Staley-Smith stated that they are registering a lot of snowmobiles at the DMV. Ms. Kogut stated that there have been nine snowmobile fatalities in New York State this year with three of those being local. A press release will be going out relative to snowmobile safety.

Ms. Rowlands inquired about sledding safety and helmets. Mr. Davison stated that historically there have been an astronomical amount of head injuries caused by sledding. Ms. Kogut stated that helmets are recommended for sledding.

4. Old Business

None.

5. New Business

Collection for Donation for Francis House: Ms. Staley-Smith stated that she would be accepting donations for Francis House in memory of Mr. Davison's father. The amount collected was \$80.00.

Ms. Staley-Smith also read a thank you card from the family of Norma Coburn that the OCTSAB received after making a contribution in Ms. Coburn's memory and providing her family with a plaque.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, March 11, 2003 9:30 AM
at
Centro Headquarters
200 Cortland Ave.