

Ann Arbor Skatepark Action Committee

Kickoff Meeting, Wednesday, June 27, 2007

MINUTES

- I. Welcome
 - a. Introductions of key people in the project at this point: Trevor Staples, Dug Song, Eric Wheeler, Wes Dean

- II. Discussion of who we are and what we're doing
 - a. We are a group of people from every part of the community who feel that Ann Arbor needs a permanent, concrete skatepark.
 - b. The current Ann Arbor skatepark is not what skaters want, and is underutilized because of this.
 - c. Skaters in Ann Arbor have choices if they want to skate: skate the streets and risk tickets from the police, skate the current Ann Arbor skatepark and pay to skate a less than adequate park, travel to another city and skate their quality skatepark, or build a private facility. Traveling and building are not an option for many skaters. That leaves them with paying to skate, or risking breaking the law to enjoy their sport.
 - d. Our goal is to have a quality concrete skatepark built in Ann Arbor that has terrain for all styles and ability levels of skating.

- III. Our Plan
 - a. First, mobilize the skateboarding community.
 - b. Get others who may use the park on board. Rollerbladers WILL use this park, and there are lots of them. It's going to be important for us to include them in this push for a public skatepark.
 - c. Get the community at-large on board. There are parents, business owners, politicians and just plain regular folks who are in favor of an Ann Arbor

public skatepark. We need to spread the word and the knowledge so that everyone knows we're here, and that we're serious.

- d. Working WITH the city and parks advisory commission is going to be important to meeting our goal. There are some things that we are not going to budge on, but we need to be as flexible as we can. For instance, we are not going to settle for a pre-fab, Skatewave-type setup. We can, however, be flexible about where the skatepark is located. These are just two examples, but we need to keep in mind that we are working WITH the city, parks commission and community at large, not AGAINST them. When this is done, we want all parties to feel good about the project and be proud to be a part of it.
- e. Our timeline is roughly one year. We are aiming to have some sort of skatepark funding plan in place by spring 2008, when the city budget is finalized.

IV. We need YOU

- a. Get the word out: stickers, word of mouth, email, myspace bulletins, tee shirts... any way you can get the buzz going that there's a push for a public skatepark in Ann Arbor is going to be helpful.
- b. Volunteer your time. We need people to do research on other skateparks in Michigan. We need people to put up flyers when we're having meetings. And, eventually, we'll need people to stand up and speak with us to the city council and parks advisory commission.
- c. Get creative. Got an idea for a shirt, sticker, logo, name for our group, or whatever? Lay it on us. The more we make this ours, the more the community owns it too.
- d. We will need your money. At this point we don't need a lot. The stickers that are coming will sell for a buck, and will cover our printing costs, which is pretty much the only costs we have at this point. Eventually, we'll need to raise funds on a much larger scale. We are hoping to keep that amount down to a workable number, but we can't know at this point what that's going to look like.

- V. For more information, send email to:
Trevor Staples: Trevor@yerboy.com
Dug Song: dugsong@monkey.org
Eric Wheeler: edw_424@yahoo.com
Wes Dean: tri900@yahoo.com
- VI. Next meeting date/location: Wednesday, July 13 at Launch.