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21 June 2011 University of Chicago

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University of Chicago

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Meeting with Colleen Christensen @ 11:45 AM.

University of Chicago Facilities and Services Building

File	Modified
Bike Share Waiver.pdf Recycles Bike Share Waiver	Jun 27, 2011 by Kenney , Grace Rebekah
Bike Share Usage Policy Fall 2010.pdf Recycles Bicycle Share Usage Policy 2011	Jun 27, 2011 by Kenney , Grace Rebekah

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Minutes

Background

- University of Chicago – Recycles bicycle sharing program
- All refurbished bikes from Blackstone Bicycle Works
- 22 in total
- BBW -> Non-profit bike repair shop that helps community in educational/job skills
- Graduate of their program is the University of Chicago bike mechanic

How this got started:

- There is a big abandoned bike problem at University of Chicago
- Each year there are bike sweeps, where Blackstone picks them up.
- If University of Chicago has a need for bikes, then Blackstone will sell a refurbished one to them.
- BBW will also sell refurbished bikes to the community.

History and how it works

- Program started Fall 2009
- 4 Bikeshare stations with 5 bikes each
- Worked with CityRyde for software
- University of Chicago was the 1st to work with them (Cornell now following suit)
- For each location, there is a front staff person
- They check out the bike, give a key to the person.
- Since it's super low tech, this program is free for students and University of Chicago personnel
- It was a big success from the beginning. Fall hours with 8-5 Monday through Friday.
- In winter it was closed, due to snow.
- Goal of program is biking and sustainability.
- Wanted to show students that Sustainability is not about deprivation
- Recycles is most widely known program on campus.
- Great way to introduce sustainability to students

Liability Issues

- They have a waiver that they require new members to sign.
- Since then they've updated their waiver. Had to have everyone who was in the program sign it again.

Environmental impact

- Not a huge one.
- 1st winter: survey of users
- Not replacing too many VMT
- Need to talk to City Ryde as they are working with a carbon offset program
- Goal is to quantify Carbon offsets of a bike share program.
- University of Chicago not upgrading system to show VMT or Carbon offset since the \$ investment is not worth it for them right now.

Now

- 22 bikes, 1,100 users, # of rentals/day can be seen
- In the spring of the first week (of the new system)-- there were 100 users in a week
- In popular locations they've increased the amount of bikes
- Now they have no budget to add more
- The Operating Hours vary by location now.
- 7days/week. Closing hours vary by time of year since dark comes at different times. They don't provide bike lights.
- One-way program are more expensive, since it would have to be an automated system. CityRyde has a middle-range option, and uses GPS.

Employee bicycle share option

- They wanted to offer bikes solely to the F&S staff
- So they had a different check-out system (Manual)
- This type of system could be integrated into the larger one, if need be. (They would just need someone to check the bikes out.)

Demographics

Mostly college students, staff, not many faculty

Funding

- Office of Facilities and Services provides the funding
- Blackstone – University of Chicago pays for bikes (refurbished ones)
- Ongoing cost with CityRyde – last year they did an upgrade
- Integrated the program with the Campus ID system – but not allowing charging the student account.
- Thus, problems with late bike returns, lost keys
- Created a Fee Schedule
- 1st strike – it's ok just once
- 2nd strike – suspended
- 3rd strike – kicked out of program
- This fee schedule helped a lot. Know who the student is.
- If a student owes \$200 (cost of bike) or more, they put a restriction on the account (since this program is a University service, they can do this)

System

They make partnerships with different buildings. Front desk staff help by checking out the bikes and giving keys to the users. They have the online system through CityRyde, so it is easily accessed from any participating building on campus.

Problems

Theft. They've started to educate students on locking. Now reaching out to all incoming students. At all the fairs at beginning of school year. Put ads in student newspaper.

Advice

Control the amount of staff time. Don't start out too big too quickly.

No labels

