



[www.wilmapco.org/bikenewark](http://www.wilmapco.org/bikenewark)

## February Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2014

Attending were Mark Deshon (chair), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), Mike Fortner (City of Newark Planning), Karl Hassler (resident, UD), Frank Warnock (Delaware Bikes), Angela Cunneely (Newark Bike Project), Joe Spadofino (City of Newark Parks & Rec), Ban Phommachanh (UD Parking), and Dan LaCombe (DelDOT).

Several others sent regrets via email.

- *Need a volunteer to take meeting notes*

No one volunteered to take notes. Mark Deshon offered to try to conduct the meeting and take some notes.

- *Brief discussion on involving more people and in better ways in the committee's work*

Mark suggested we send out a poll (e.g., Survey Monkey) about interest issues including meeting day and time. Heather said that WILMAPCO is generally very flexible with meeting space.

Karl urged the committee to consider a more continual, collaborative "meeting," in the sense that we can get a lot done through online tools in between monthly (i.e., physical) meetings.

This led to a discussion about picking the right tool(s). Angela and Frank both suggested the committee launch a Facebook page, through which information can be posted, ideas can be shared, and interest momentum can build. We discussed a private group (invitation only) vs. an open group (joinable) vs. a community page (visible to anyone) and the group consensus was to opt for an open group page. Angela agreed to set it up.

Another idea for shoring up the committee was to wait until after City of Newark elections in April and then get some time on the City Council agenda sometime in May (to coincide with National Bike Month) to propose that Council members help us form a combined staff/citizen committee by appointing members from their districts.

- *Status of the Newark Bike Plan*

Mike reported that the Newark Traffic Committee reviewed the plan and passed it along to City Council for their approval vote (to be voted on Feb. 24, 2014).

- *Final NBC review of Bicycle Friendly Community application*

There was no final review at this meeting because Heather had already sent the application in to the League of American Bicyclists to meet the deadline.

Mark cited the great work done by Heather on this application and thanked the committee for its help in providing Heather with input along the way.

- *Bike to Work Day*

- *Coordinator (and co-coordinator?)*

Mike agreed to be coordinate Newark's 2014 Bike to Work Day. Mark suggested he get in touch with Christine Schultz (resident, UD) and ask her to be a co-coordinator.

- *Ideas*

- *Decisions and assignments*

Rather than discuss this among our small group, we decided it might be better for Mike to begin organizing. Mark said he would provide Mike with some of the materials he has used during the past three years, from which Mike can work if he wants.

- *City of Newark Comprehensive Development Plan status (Mike Fortner)*

Mike had attached the current draft of Chapter 6: Transportation for committee review in an email sent to committee members. This chapter, for the most part, is a summary of the 2011 Newark Transportation Plan, adopting its same structure and priorities. It includes a few other features such as establishing a Transportation Investment District (TID) in the central part of Newark. The chapter also adopts the Newark Bicycle Plan as an addendum to the Comprehensive Plan.

Mike is going to present the revised draft of the entire Comprehensive Plan, based on all the workshops and feedback at the March 4 Planning Commission Meeting. There will be at least one more workshop on or around March 25, and then a public hearing will be scheduled for sometime in April to give a recommendation to Council.

- *Spring safety checkpoints*

There was no representative from UD Campus Safety present, but Linda Smith (UD HealthyU Employee Wellness) had sent an email indicating that Employee Wellness is partnering with Healthy Hens (its parallel student group) to offer two bicycle safety–

awareness events for students, faculty, and staff. They will be held on Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m. on April 16 and April 23 at a location to be announced. UD Public Safety will attend, and they plan to invite other community groups to make it a mini-fair-type event where people can stop by for information, register their bikes with UD Public Safety, etc.

Dan (who was teleconferencing with us from Dover) asked for this information. Dan also noted that regular safety checks would be planned. Since Dan is retiring at the end of the month, DelDOT's bike/ped coordinator Anthony Aglio will be filling Dan's role on the committee, at least for now.

Linda suggested in the email that we consider conducting bicycle safety checks at both these meetings (in addition to our regular ones) and that we provide contact information for bicycle-safety instructors who would be willing to offer a demo and/or be available to help cyclists try some safe riding practices. If Linda can get instructors, the event organizers will choose a location where a small course could be set up.

Mark emailed Dan the info that Linda had provided, so he would have the dates. Angela was eager to get together with Linda to see what role Newark Bike Project could play in these events. She suggested we get some LAB-certified instructors from the White Clay Bike Club to come and help with these events too. She will look into that and communicate with Linda.

- *New business*

Heather announced that the Heels & Wheels Summit will be on March 21 at the Clayton Hall Conference Center on UD's Laird Campus. There is no fee for attending, but those interested in participating should register at [www.wilmapco.org/heelsandwheels](http://www.wilmapco.org/heelsandwheels). Mark agreed to be present to man a table on behalf of the committee. The last activity at this summit features a walk or bike option on the Pomeroy Trail, which Joe (who has worked for Parks & Rec for 18 year) was proud to say has been designated a National Recreational Trail.

In closing the meeting, the committee took the opportunity to thank Dan LaCombe for his service to the Newark Bicycle Committee and wish him well in retirement.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, March 20, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.