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March Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2015

Attending were Mark Deshon (chair), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), Tom Coleman (City of Newark Public Works and Water Resources), Mike Fortner (City of Newark Planning), Karl Hassler (resident), Karen Rosenberg (resident), Ban Phommachanh (UD Parking), Paul Moser (UD student), and Tom Price (Newark Bike Project).

Christine Schultz (resident), Linda Smith (UD HealthyU Employee Wellness), Kirsten Jones (UD student), Anthony Aglio (DelDOT Bike Coordinator), Jeff Riegner (resident), and Jillian Farley (UD alumna) sent regrets.

Guest presenter: Dennis Aniunas (City of Newark Police)

- *News on planning and development funding for cycle track*

Mark Deshon announced that DelDOT has agreed to assume the costs of the planning and development portion of the cycle track project and, in partnership with the City of Newark, will be contracting initial engineering studies to Johnson, Miriman & Thompson (JMT). This info came from Tom Coleman in an email from DelDOT's Mark Tudor just last week. This is indeed great news, especially coming on the heels of our discussion about funding at last month's meeting.

Mark has asked Drew Boyce by email about being able to announce this funding thing publicly but has not heard back from him as of this meeting. Heather Dunigan suggested that we copy DelDOT's Jeff Niezgoda on future correspondence.

In an email, James Wilson said that this project will be highlighted prominently at the Walkable Bikeable Delaware Summit on May 7. It will be an hour-long session, with both Mark Tudor and Mark Luszcz presenting. He believes they will also be showing Kirsten Jones's video. James said he'd also spoken with another engineer who had pulled all the digital maps for Delaware Avenue and didn't see any "pinch points" (at least according to the maps). Delaware Avenue is never less than 30 feet wide along the entire project length (Orchard Road to Library Avenue).

- *Review of InsideLine Bike Expo*

Mark thanked committee members Tom Coleman, Kirsten Jones, Paul Moser, Karl Hassler, and Jillian Farley for giving our committee continual coverage throughout the eight-hour event.

Bike Delaware's Drew Knox brought a functioning bike traffic signal, which was an attention-getter. Kirsten's video was a big hit too. Thanks again to Paul for bringing a laptop, flatscreen TV, and cables.

Mark asked Heather Dunigan if he could have the artwork for the poster, so that he can have it printed on a board for more permanency.

- *City of Newark Police plans for anti-bicycle-theft program*

Dennis Aniunas introduced the city Police Department's upcoming Bait Bike Program and started out by admitting that the Police Department is not quite as far along as anticipated. Ban Phommachanh chimed in by saying that UD has three "bait bikes" and that it is a couple years into its program. The idea behind bait bikes is that GPS tracking devices on bicycles that are purposely unsecured or poorly secured allow authorities to pinpoint movement of these bicycles, thus leading to the perpetrators. The goal is to reduce thefts immediately by 10%.

Ban asked how many bicycles are being stolen from UD students. Dennis said that about 75 bicycles were reported stolen last year and estimates that about half of these were UD student bikes.

The city's Police Department is preparing a campaign to let the public know about this Bait Bike program in an attempt to seriously curtail incidences of bike theft. Dennis passed around examples of registration cards, bicycle stickers, and ads that will be part of the overall program strategy, which will be carried out via press release and social media.

Dennis asked Tom Price for Newark Bike Project assistance (tune up and bike lock) to get the city's new Trek bait bike ready to go. Tom agreed on its behalf.

This program is scheduled to begin this spring.

- *Volunteer call for spring semester safety checkpoints at UD*

Committee members volunteered to help Anthony Aglio with safety checkpoints as follows:

Tues., Apr. 7, 4-7 p.m. on the Green at Delaware Ave.
Tom Price and Tom Coleman (possibly Heather Dunigan)

Mon., Apr. 13, 4-7 p.m. at the Perkins Student Center patio
Tom Price, Mike Fortner, Mark Deshon, and Paul Moser (possibly Heather Dunigan)

Tom Price indicated that he would try to secure one more mechanic from the Newark Bike Project for each event. Dennis said that he would try to get coverage of each from the Newark Police Department.

- *Upcoming Bike Month events*

- *Update on Bike to Work Day plans (May 15)*

Mike Fortner asked the committee for location recommendations, wondering if there might be a better alternative to the Trabant University Center patio. Discussed were the area in front of Old College, Perkins Student Center patio, and Mentor's Circle. The consensus was that Mentor's Circle (adjacent to the south side of Hullihen Hall) would be a good location. Mark suggested that the backup plan should be the Trabant Student Center.

Mark said that Mike should get in touch with Christine Schultz to see if she can help reserve the site, seeing as there may be a fee (unless a student group does the reserving). Linda Smith of UD HeathyU Employee Wellness may also be of help in this regard.

Mike suggested that the committee's annual Bicycle Friendly Community Leader Award be given to Governor Markell. Mark wondered whether it might be better to present him with this award next year (his last in office), but others thought it might help get him here this year and contribute positively to the "buzz" in and around the Delaware Avenue cycle track project.

Other notables to invite: UD's Provost Domenico Grasso, UD's VP for Facilities Alan Brangman, University Architect and Campus Planner Peter Krawchyk, state legislators, etc.

Mike talked about several ways the City would be looking to advertise this event, including Twitter. The committee suggested the Twitter handle "#bikenewarkde". He said that the Downtown Newark Partnership might also get involved in the form of offering discounts either during Bike Week (May 11-15) or all month. Mike and Heather affirmed that the official advertising art from the League of American Bicyclists is pretty much the same as last year's, so this should help in creating printed material (flyers, posters, web banners, etc.).

Mike asked if we wanted to have captain-led commuter groups for the event again this year. All thought it was a good idea, particularly since we already have planned routes and meeting points; we simply need volunteers to captain. Someone suggested that it might be a good way to get city council members to participate as well, since the routes were designated to correspond with council districts. Mark agreed to organize this.

- *Update on Mayor's Fun Ride plans (May 16)*

Committee members Mark and Joe Spadafino met with Mayor Sierer's event committee on Tuesday, March 17. Mark reported that the committee had decided on a 11 a.m. start time and a five-mile route for what is officially being called the "Mayor's Fun Ride." A logo has been created, and publicity planning is underway. Mark shared the preliminary cue sheet and map that he produced, in order to show the committee the planned route and mentioned that Fusion Fitness is organizing a 5K run that same morning (earlier) at Buffalo Wild Wings.

Mark reported that Deputy City Manager Andy Haines will contact Anthony about providing helmets for this event. Committee member Jeff Riegner is to make contact with DelDOT's Sarah Coakley about the possibility of her conducting a family-friendly "bike rodeo" after the ride at the event site (Rittenhouse/Municipal buildings). Joe will be coordinating with Newark Police. Mark said that the Mayor would like this event to help benefit the Newark cycling community, possibly through provision of helmets for participants in the English Language Institute.

More information on this event will be forthcoming at next month's meeting.

- *Committee participation in Bike Summit (May 7)*

Mark asked how many committee members were planning to attend the Walkable/Bikeable Delaware Summit this year, which is on Thursday, May 7, on the Legislative Mall in Dover. Paul said he would be going and passed out registration reminder cards for the event, saying that free registration (for a limited time) starts on March 20. Mark said he'd be going as well.

• *Presentation of Google Docs tool for tracking progress on Newark Bike Plan and LAB recommendations*

Paul and Karl Hassler had worked on setting up a Google Docs tool. Karl presented the basic spreadsheet and explained that its purpose is for the committee's use in assessing its progress and planning for the future. He set it up to include the goals within the Newark Bike Plan, which was adopted by City Council a year ago. In terms of access to this document, the committee decided that all active committee members should have access to it; Mark will send Karl a list of emails from which he can set up administrative privileges. Heather mentioned that it would be a good tool for planning as well as adding other initiatives.

The committee thanked Karl and Paul for their contribution and thinks this will be a useful tool going forward.

• *Old or new business*

- *Discussion of division of labor within committee*

Mark urged all who were present to consider the various projects that are ongoing and to volunteer to get involved with at least one of them, in order to help distribute some of the responsibility within the committee.

- *Status of availability of Newark Bike Maps*

Mark said that Anthony has printed 1,000 Newark Bike Maps at an 11-in. x 17-in. size. Mark will try to pick them up next week and distribute several to the Newark Bike Project, the City of Newark, and the University of Delaware.

- *Administrative transfer of NBC Facebook account*

Mark sent Angela Connolly a request that she turn over administrative control to him and remove herself and Frank Warnock. Mark had not heard back from her on this, but Heather indicated that this has been done.

Tom Price requested access as an administrator. Mark explained that we have to be careful that we're not using this tool to garner publicity for other groups primarily (Heather said particularly advocacy groups) and that those who post to the page must keep the interests of the Newark Bicycle Committee paramount. We all agreed, though, that creating traffic is, in general, a good thing.

- *UD parking report*

Ban stated that UD has lost some bike parking due to campus construction. Mark asked if he had considered relocating the under-utilized rack behind Jestak-Burgess Hall. Mark asked Ban how parking enforcement was going, and he replied that his group is handing out a lot of warnings about proper bike parking and that sometimes a ticket envelope is used to drive home the message. There will be a big bike clean-up effort prior to Alumni Reunion Weekend. In conjunction with this, someone mentioned that the City needs to do a sweep for abandoned bikes along Main Street as well.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 16, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.