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April Meeting Minutes April 16, 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), Joe Spadafino (City of Newark Parks and Recreation), Tom Price (Newark Bike Project), Karl Hassler (resident), Karen Rosenberg (resident), Paul Moser (Bike Delaware), Jonathan Kirch (American Heart Association/American Stroke Association), Brian Bahnson (resident), and Kirsten Jones (UD student).

Regrets: Christine Schultz (resident), Linda Smith (UD HealthyU Employee Wellness), Anthony Aglio (DelDOT Bike Coordinator), Jeff Riegner (resident), and James Wilson (Bike Delaware) sent regrets.

Guests: Al Porach (resident) and Sonny Yin (UD student)

- *Upcoming planning and development meeting on cycle track*

Heather Dunigan said that there would be a planning and development meeting on Friday, April 24, at the Newark Municipal Building. With respect to the funding picture, she explained that director Tigist Zegeye had called and convinced DelDOT to fund the initial phase of the cycle track project—planning and development.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the objectives for a feasibility study of the project for safe and efficient bicycle travel on Delaware Avenue between Library Avenue and South Main Street. This includes data collection (counters have already been deployed), public outreach, concept plan, and a report).

There will be other committee members attending in their professional roles, but Mark said he would sit in as a representative of the Newark Bicycle Committee.

- *Update and call for volunteers for Bike to Work Day effort*

- *Venue/Set-up*

Mike Fortner said that Mentors' Circle on the UD campus had been secured as the venue for the event (May 15, 7:30 a.m.) and that this location would be "better

visually.” He said we’ll need appropriate road signage. Parking was raised as a minor concern, but most were assured that there would be available spaces along South College that early in the morning. Mike said the City would furnish tables and, though there doesn’t appear to be any convenient electrical service there, he said the City had a portable sound system that would work.

- *Publicity (posters, flyers, news articles, UDaily article, etc.)*

The committee will use various ways of getting out the word. Mike said the City’s Ricky Nietubicz would take care of publicity from the City and that Linda Smith would help make sure that there would be an article in UDaily. Brian Bahnson asked whether we should do articles before or after the event. Jonathan Kirch emphatically answered that we should do both. Brian suggested we cover the Main Street businesses with publicity (posters and flyers). Heather said if we contact the *News Journal*, we should go through the health reporter. A suggestion was made to get former attendees to help spread the word. Mark said he’d send something out to this group of people.

Mark had attached a draft of the flyer with the meeting agenda, and Heather had printed out a draft of the poster. The one comment was that the location should be better described. Mark said he’d take care of it and would send out print-ready PDFs of each with these meeting minutes.

- *Bike Train Captains*

Mark said he had yet to modify the routes for the map and that he was waiting for the City election to take place before contacting City Council representatives about the Bike Trains for this event (based on Council districts). Brian and Paul volunteered to captain, and Brian said his wife, Lauri Webber, might be willing to captain a train as well. Christine Schultz is also willing.

- *Special Guests*

Mike said that, while UD Provost Domenico Grasso cannot attend, Vice Provost Matt Kinservik is willing to welcome attendees on behalf of UD. Vice President for Facilities and Auxiliary Services Alan Brangman has also agreed to speak, as had Mayor Polly Sierer and City Manager Carol Houck. Mike has invited or will invite local legislators.

- *Award*

Gov. Markell cannot be present, so at this time, the new awardee had not been set.

Mike also mentioned that, during the program, we will formally announce and recognize the City for its new “bronze level” status as a Bicycle Friendly Employer.

- *Committee Participants in Program*

Mark agreed to emcee on behalf of the committee.

- *Food*

Mike said that the food arrangements would be the same as we have had in previous years.

- *Tent(s), Tables*

Mark asked Mike how many tents were needed and said that Anthony Aglio had told him that DelDOT would bring its tent. Mark suggested that Mike and Anthony talk offline about whether there's a need for an additional tent. Committee members said that having an additional tent would be good, especially in the event of rain.

- *A/V, Photography coverage*

Mark suggested that Mike get Linda Smith to arrange for a photographer through UD's public affairs office and to make sure we can get the photos for committee use after the event.

• *Update on Mayor's Ride and call for volunteers*

Joe Spadafino reported that Rittenhouse Station will be the staging area for the Mayor's Fun Ride, which takes place on Saturday, May 16, at 11:30 a.m. The Greene Turtle will provide food and giveaways. He said that Jeff Riegner had told him that there would not be a DelDOT-run "bike rodeo," but that Kim Caruso of the Newark Bike Project would arrange for something similar for kids.

Newark Bike Project will be doing pre-ride bike safety checks. Joe said the City has purchased 50 adult and 50 children's helmets at a cost of \$7.50 each to have on hand.

Karl Hassler asked if there will be any live music. Joe said he thought that the Greene Turtle would be providing some music. Karl also asked about whether the two events (Bike to Work Day and this one) should be publicized together. The committee thought it would be a good idea to do so but that separate flyers would still be good (Mayor's Fun Ride poster art attached with these meeting minutes).

Joe said the next meeting of the Mayor's Fun Ride planning committee is on April 21.

Mark said he would be out of town that day but that our committee should have a presence at this event with a table at minimum, since we're noted prominently as a sponsor. He asked who would be willing to volunteer some time at a committee table. Several volunteered (Heather, Mike, Paul, Joe, etc.); most said they would also be doing the five-mile ride as well (course cue sheet attached).

- *Intro to Newark Low-Stress Bicycle Route Analysis*

Paul introduced us to Bike Delaware's collaboration with DelDOT's Planning department on a means to analyze levels of traffic stress for bikeability and highlight connectivity barriers/opportunities. Paul did some of this work, including GIS, during a winter student internship with DelDOT and noted that this concept had been pioneered by Peter Furth at Northeastern University (Mark noted that Furth had been one of the keynote speakers at the Delaware Walkable/Bikeable Summit a couple years ago).

Paul explained that this type of study is done at the municipal level and that Newark has been a good study model. Data were collected two weeks ago, and he hopes the Newark study will result in some GIS maps that will point out the current disconnects in infrastructure. Heather said she hopes this will help us prioritize projects that are listed in the Newark Bicycle Plan.

- *Brief review of National Bike Summit in Washington, D.C.*

Paul, Jonathan, and James Wilson attended the National Bike Summit last month. Paul said the Delaware Bicycle Council generously paid his way to attend. The theme was "Bikes Plus," and the summit was all about how bicycles create value. Paul said there were a lot of presentations on how bikes can help economic development.

One funding strategy that was mentioned at the summit by a representative from a U.S. university may hold promise for the University of Delaware. The student government association (SGA) petitioned the university to add \$1 or \$2 to required student fees; these fees would go to fund bicycle infrastructure improvements on campus. The committee thought this might be a good strategy for UD and that we could work through UD's SGA. For example, a \$5 increase in the UD student fee structure earmarked for bicycle infrastructure improvements on campus would yield an annual bucket of about \$100K.

As far as lobbying goes, Jonathan went on to remind us that, while we are fortunate here in Delaware to have fitness-oriented legislators who "get it," the fear is always that federal funding may always go in the other direction, particularly if some heavyweight "from 'Big Sky Country'" who is interested only in travel by car holds sway politically. So, we need to be active voices, individually and collectively, by urging that flexibility be preserved in funding pots at the federal level.

- *Reminder on Walkable/Bikeable Delaware Summit*

This summit will be held on the Legislative Mall in Dover on May 7. Jonathan said that it will largely deal with what the cycling community has done with allocated funds, noting that there are still gaps, and making sure that connections are made.

In the morning (program agenda attached with the meeting minutes), the program will be mostly technical, and the Newark cycle track project will be featured. Lunch will be in Legislative Hall.

In the afternoon, there will be a panel of local government, business, and development leaders. Mark mentioned that James Wilson had emailed him to try to contact Mayor Sierer about participating in the panel.

Jonathan asked how many had registered to attend. Five or six hands went up. So, the committee will be well represented at the summit.

- *Old or new business*

- *Distribution of Newark Bike Maps*

Mark picked up 1,000 maps that Anthony had printed at DelDOT in tabloid (17-in. x 11-in.) format. He has distributed some at Newark Bike Project, the City Municipal Building, and UD's Carpenter Sports Building. He'll take some to the local bike stores downtown.

- *Other upcoming events*

Heather mentioned that the White Clay Bike Club is partnering again this year with WILMAPCO to host a beginning bike training class on May 27, from 6–8:30 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

- *Tri-Valley Trail*

Jonathan said he's very concerned that there's been concentrated "push back" on the plans for completion of a Tri-Valley Trail system. He feels that our committee should address this. DNREC may hold additional opportunities for public input. The committee decided that we would invite David Bartoo to come and speak about the planned trail at our next meeting. Brian knows him and will make the invitation personally.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 21, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.