



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

## April Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2014

Attending were Mark Deshon (chair), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), Mike Fortner (City of Newark Planning), Ban Phommachanh (UD Parking), Jeff Riegner (resident, engineer), and Bob Bennett (resident).

Christine Schultz, Angela Connolly, Frank Warnock, and Karl Hassler sent regrets via email. Anthony Aglio was not available via conference call.

- *Brief review of Heels & Wheels Summit*

Heather Dunigan reported that the Heels & Wheels Delaware Walk & Bike Summit, held on March 21 at the Clayton Hall Conference Center on the University of Delaware campus, was excellent. Newark Mayor Polly Sierer gave opening remarks and welcomed attendees on behalf of the city. Heather felt that the event made the city “look good” and indicated that the Summit presentations are now all online ([www.wilmapco.org/heelsandwheels1](http://www.wilmapco.org/heelsandwheels1)).

Heather thanked Mike Fortner and Jeff Riegner, respectively, for the City of Newark and Whitman, Requardt & Associates LLP’s sponsorship of the event.

Heather talked about how nice the post-Summit walk was, despite fewer participants than expected. Keynote speaker Dan Burden and DNREC Secretary Colin O’Mara both did the walk along the Pomeroy Trail. Mark Deshon mentioned that the bike ride was also welcome, after a long day of sitting. He also felt that the end-of-the-day’s session went on far too long and that that might have led to many opting not to do either the post-Summit bike or walk.

- *Brief review of spring safety checkpoints*

Mike helped out at both checkpoints (April 8 and 16) and characterized the initial one, held at the corner of Ray Street and North College Ave. (just before bridge to Laird campus), as “slow.” He said he thought they only gave out 14-15 sets of bike lights there. Newark Bike Project (NBP) did not have a representative present on April 8 because of a communication snafu; however, there was at least one NBP mechanic present for the

duration of the April 16 checkpoint, held on Delaware Avenue at the Green. Two UD Police officers were present at both checkpoints and were a big help. As always, DelDOT was instrumental in making this happen. NBP thanks Anthony Aglio for setting up and bringing all the materials and bike goodies. We all agreed that the Green is a much better location for these checkpoints.

[The following addendum was submitted by Anthony Aglio subsequent to the meeting.]

Marco Boyce, Mike, and Anthony staffed the April 8 checkpoint. Three UD Police officers assisted. The weather was a little cool and we had fewer bike customers than normal. Twenty-four students stopped at the table; we gave away 18 light sets and no helmets.

April 16 checkpoint was staffed by Mike, Mark, Christine Schultz, and Anthony, plus Jamie Magee, Thijs Lanckriet, and at least one other volunteer from NBP. There were two UD Police officers who helped. The table was very well attended. We gave away 35 light sets and one helmet. Additionally, several reflective bands and other related materials were given out.

- *Brief review of UD HealthyU Employee Wellness/Healthy Hens bicycle education events and partnering event with NBP*

[The following addendum was submitted by Linda Smith subsequent to the meeting.]

Angela Cunneely did a fantastic presentation on bicycle commuting on April 10 at NBP. The 15 UD employees attended really enjoyed all that she had to share. This workshop was one of eight topics that we have been offering this spring. We had a diverse audience from across the University, with which we were very pleased. Thank you, Angela! The Healthy Hens/HealthyU event on Wednesday, April 16 from 4-6 p.m. was moved inside the lobby of Carpenter Sports Building due to cold weather. Several UD employees stopped by for information. Most students who were in the building did not have bikes, however. Anthony gave out 20 light sets, 40 blinky lights, as well as other bicycle safety materials for use in UD's HealthyU Employee Wellness program.

Healthy Hens/HealthyU will be on the Green at Delaware Avenue and Wolf Hall on Wednesday, April 23, from 12-2 p.m. UD Public Safety will be there to register bikes. Angela, if representatives from NBP would like to join us, they are welcome.

- *Reminder to register for Walkable Bikeable Delaware Summit*

Mark reminded everyone to sign up for the Walkable Bikeable Summit, which takes place on May 1 in Dover (see [bikede.org/summit](http://bikede.org/summit)). Andy Clarke, president of the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) will be there, and senior transportation officials from two platinum-level biking communities—Portland, Ore., and Boulder, Colo.—will be the keynote speakers.

- *Status of Bicycle Friendly Community award notification*

Heather reported that the application has been submitted and that she anticipates that she'll receive word on LAB's determination on or around May 1. She will let Mike and Mark know, but we will "embargo" the information so that an official announcement can be made at the Bike to Work Day event in Newark on May 16.

- *City of Newark Comprehensive Development Plan status*

Mike said that the city Planning Commission will soon make its final review of the plan. Mike said that he plans to offer to lead some sessions with the City Council to go over the plan in detail, prior to their bringing it forward for adoption. Mike indicated that he will see that the document is properly edited before it gets into the hands of City Council.

- *Bike to Work Day plans*

Newark's Bike to Work Day event will be held on Friday, May 16, 2014 (National Bike to Work Day).

*Venue and incidentals*

The venue (Trabant University Center patio) was secured by Healthy Hens via Linda Smith. DelDOT confirmed that it will have representation there. A proclamation will be read at City Council on May 12, proclaiming National Bike to Work Day in Newark on May 16. The City of Newark will provide podium and sound equipment.

*Publicity*

Mike had created an event flyer, and Mark created a new flyer to be the official one (see attachment) after the LAB had made its National Bike Month materials available. Mark also designed a 2-ft. x 3-ft. poster, which was on display at the meeting. Mark distributed some of the flyers to members present, and said we'll work on how many posters will be needed. Mike will be inviting leadership with personal invitation letters. Mark will update the NBC Facebook page with official LAB art in May.

*Speakers and other invitees*

Christine had confirmed that University Provost Domenico Grasso will speak on behalf of UD. Mike confirmed that Newark City Manager Carol Houck will speak on behalf of the City of Newark. City Council has been invited. Mike has invited dignitaries, including major political figures, but cannot confirm any one else at this point. He did say that Rep. Paul Baumbach will not be able to be present. Mark suggested that Mike work through Linda to invite appropriate upper-level staff from UD. With respect to the Bicycle Friendly Community announcement, Heather and Jeff suggested that Mike consider letting DelDOT secretary Shailen Bhatt know ahead of time about this announcement, so that he can get it on his calendar. Jeff also suggested that Mark Luszcz, in particular, receive an invitation to attend.

*Sponsors*

Mike and his city assistant Ricky Nietubicz will be canvassing local businesses soon.

### *Safety units*

Mike asked Mark about the need, and Mike agreed to secure City Police and UD Police to have them provide safety in and around that busy intersection before and during the event. Mark mentioned that he still needs to contact an officer at UD Police and bring him/her on board with the committee.

### *Call for volunteers for specific tasks*

Mike will ask for Christine to help with any UD-related issues that need to be addressed. Mike mentioned the desire to have “bike captains” from the six city districts lead rides to the event that morning. Mark suggested that he might ask Karl Hassler to help coordinate this aspect of Bike to Work Day.

### *Any other logistics not mentioned above*

The Bicycle Friendly Community Leader Award this year will go to Dan Lacombe, former committee member and recent DelDOT retiree. Mark said that Anthony Aglio will make sure that Dan is present. Mike will work on locating the artwork for the certificate from last year.

- *New business*

Heather has updated the committee’s webpage ([www.wilmapco.org/bikenewark](http://www.wilmapco.org/bikenewark)).

“Kidical Mass” will take place on April 27. This will be a planned ride for kids on the Hall and Pomeroy Trails, beginning at Park Place Elementary School and proceeding to Wood Fired Pizza for a treat (see [www.facebook.com/KidicalMassNewark](http://www.facebook.com/KidicalMassNewark)).

On May 21, White Clay Bicycle Club will be leading the annual Ride of Silence, typically a short-distance ride in and around Newark, to honor those who have died or been injured in biking accidents. This ride will begin at Newark Charter School (2001 Patriot Way), just off Elkton Road at 7 p.m. (see [whiteclaybicycleclub.org/ride-of-silence-newark-de](http://whiteclaybicycleclub.org/ride-of-silence-newark-de)).

Jeff mentioned that the Newark-to-Wilmington trail project is still proceeding well. He indicated on a wall map what the initial planned route is and said that the good news is that 30-40% of the rights of way are either already built or currently under development. Ultimately, this will become a network of routes.

Ban Phommachanh asked about the Newark Bike Maps and how he could get some to hand out at the UD Employee Benefits/Wellness Fair in May. He gave Mark a flyer that UD Parking & Transportation Services had created. On one side was info on the six bicycle-repair stands on campus; on the other were bicycle-parking tips directed at students and the campus community in general. At Heather’s suggestion, Mark said that he would incorporate these repair-stand locations on an update to the Newark Bike Map and make sure that Ban has it to reproduce.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, May 16, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

**Note: It is critical that we have “all hands on deck” at this meeting, since it is the afternoon before Bike to Work Day. Please put this meeting into your calendar now and plan to be there ready volunteer for any last-minute needs. Thank you.**