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Monthly Meeting Minutes May 18, 2017, 4 p.m., at WILMAPCO

The meeting was called to order by Mark Deshon at 4:00 pm

Attendees: Residents: Brian Bahnson, Caitlynn Coster, Mark Deshon, Susan Grasso, Karl Hassler, Barb Hughes, Karen Rosenberg, Lester Stein, Sean Watson, Lauri Webber

Non-resident: Dave Saunders

City of Newark: Tom Coleman, Mike Fortner, Tim Filasky, Taras Gerasimov

UD: Savannah Edwards, Ban Phommachanh, Bill Knightly,

WILMAPCO/NBP: Heather Dunningan

Bike Delaware: John Bare

DelDOT: Paul Moser

Financial Report: There was no report as Bob McBride was not present.

Voting for BikeNewark Executive Board positions: There were no other nominations from the floor. Ballots were circulated to voting members. There was a motion made and seconded to announce election results at this meeting. Motion approved. The ballot of officers was unanimously approved. 10 ballots were cast for: Chair Mark Deshon, Co-Chair Susan Grasso, Secretary Lester Stein, Treasurer Bob McBride.

Last-minute assignments/updates for Bike to Work Day: Mike Fortner reported that tables, podium and trashcans are being delivered by about 7:10. Susan is picking up coffee. Need help to set up tables, etc. Bike trains depart 7:20. The formal program will start at 8:00. There will be a group picture at the end of the program. The raffle will follow the group picture. Will need help to cleanup about 9:00. Please encourage everyone to register.

Status of Places for Bikes application: Heather Dunigan reported that Places for Bikes is a new program of People for Bikes, primarily funded by the bicycle industry. We applied for a Big Jump program grant, one component of Places for Bikes but were not selected. We completed an application in April for the second component, City Snapshot. Similar to the League of American Bicyclists ratings, City Snapshot will rate communities on various

bicycle-friendly measures. Places for Bikes will also provide Newark with a Bicycle Network Analysis of low-stress routes. We expect to receive the results in the fall.

Quick committee updates

Education and Encouragement: Susan Grasso reported that this has been a busy month with UD Bike Days, including a Bike Central event and a First Friday Ride starting on The Green with 43 riders. Positive comments about the signs. We partnered with UD Student Government Association. There was a raffle for 2 bikes donated by the UD College of Health Sciences, Wooden Wheels and Bike Line. Bike to School Week at Downes was a success with a lot of help from DelDOT and City of Newark. There were 2 digital tools (an online survey and storymap) used to evaluate the projected bike lane-demonstration project and biking to school experiences with 35 people having completed the first and 18 with the second. There were about 100 bikes at Downes representing about 29% of their enrollment on Monday when 4 bike trains were featured, representing 29% of the school's enrollment. The next First Friday Ride is June 2 starting at The Newark Shopping Center and ending at Newark Bike Project. Barb Hughes will be taking the lead on organizing the First Friday rides from now on. Susan will schedule a meeting in June to plan future events.

Engineering: Mark Deshon reported on the May 5 meeting. There was no discussion on the proposed Orchard Road mini-circles and the central bike loop signage as Tom Coleman was not present. Preparation for the May 16 Traffic Committee included the contraflow lane and to find consensus on what amenities to propose. We are looking to have several proponents in attendance to support our reasoning. There was a discussion about having BikeNewark representatives meeting individually with Newark Council members within the next 2 weeks about the benefits of the Florida-T at the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Capitol Trail. The emphasis will be this will improve travel conditions in and around the area for the vast majority of Newark's commuters and visitors while conceding that it may inconvenience a few. Mark Deshon will meet with Mark Morehead, Jerry Clifton and Luke Chapman. Susan Grasso and Barb Hughes will meet with Jennifer Wallace and Chris Hamilton. Karl Hassler will meet with Stu Markham. Karl Hassler said that, because of his unpredictable work schedule, he really can't commit to leading this committee.

A planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25 at 8:30 am. The City of Newark Planning Director, Mary Ellen Gray, will be participating in future events. The Traffic Committee discussed contraflow lane on Main St on May 16. There was a long discussion on option 1 with questions about safety issues. It was agreed that it will be illegal to make a lefthand turn if bikes use the contraflow lane from the car lane. The agreed protocol was that cyclists would go to a contraflow lane during the scramble phase from the bike lane. BikeNewark was asked to do some education especially that bikers will have to yield to pedestrians during the scramble. The Committee approved to go ahead with the plan for a period of time from implementation through April 2018. The Newark police will need to have a presence for enforcement. It was suggested that we should add our information about the Florida-T to our blog suggesting residents who support it to contact their council member. Karl Hassler volunteered to write up something.

Safety and Enforcement: Barb Hughes said there was nothing to report

Membership and Volunteer Coordination: Caitlynn Coster is looking for attendance rosters from all events so that she may contact any one on those lists about getting involved. We should have sign-in sheets for all events and meetings.

Communications: Karen Rosenberg said there was nothing to report. We need to complete a form for voting members at the next meeting. If business cards are needed, contact Mark Deshon.

Identify voting member volunteers to attend as BikeNewark representatives:

City of Newark Traffic Committee: There is one person who expressed interest in following City of Newark “things”. Susan Grasso will provide the name of this person.

Delaware Bicycle Council: Susan Grasso volunteered.

Downtown Newark Partnership: Joe Charma is a DNP liaison to BikeNewark, so there needs to be someone else to represent BikeNewark at these meetings.

One talking point to feed Mayor Sierer for June City Council meeting: It was suggested that the Mayor highlight all of the Bike Month events.

Old or new business: Susan Grasso asked if we want to put together a work plan for the rest of 2017 and then start setting up 2018. It was suggested that we have a special meeting and invite community members. The board officers will then formulate a plan from the suggestions. The meeting should be in early summer to plan for the fall. A special thanks was given on a job well done to the *ad_hoc* Organization committee for setting up the new organization. We need a plan to thank donors. Usually this falls to the Treasurer. It was suggested that letters be sent to sponsors and that post cards could be used for other donors. Caitlynn Coster asked if anyone would be interested in a bike ride on the canal? There was some interest and it was suggested that we possibly ask Newark Bike Project to join us. This led to a discussion of creating a calendar of events. Sean Watson is going to work on the idea. Savannah Edwards was acknowledged for completing her Master of Public Administration degree and she reported that she had found a job and will be relocating to Millsboro.

There was a motion and a second to adjourn at 5:40 pm. All agreed.

Minutes taken by:

Lester Stein