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Monthly Meeting Minutes June 15, 2017, 4 p.m., at WILMAPCO

Mark Deshon called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Member attendees:

Brian Bahnson, Mark Deshon (Chair), Karl Hassler, Barb Hughes, Bob McBride (Treasurer), Karen Rosenberg, Lester Stein (Secretary), Sean Watson, Lauri Webber, Dave Saunders

Partner liaison attendees:

City of Newark: Tim Filasky, Joe Spadafino

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

Bike Delaware: John Bare

Adoption of meeting minutes from April and May: Mark asked if there were any questions or changes to the April minutes that were emailed to all members. There were no changes needed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the April minutes as presented. The motion passed. Mark then asked if there were any questions or changes to the May minutes that were email to all members. There were no changes needed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the May minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Financial Report as of May 31, 2017: The balance in the account is \$831.03, and there were no known liabilities. There will be a T-shirt bill submitted to make up the difference of the actual invoice from what has been paid. A PayPal account has been set up but needs to have a link set up from our website. It is accessible from the PayPal website. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report. The motion passed.

Quick wrap-up of Bike Month events: Heather said she made a calendar of the events but suggested to do that earlier next year and to include other local area bike events. There was a bike app that was difficult to use. We need to differentiate sponsorship by each event. And we need to create a sponsor form to list what each sponsor is donating, including in-kind donations. The Mayor's Fun Ride was well attended even though the weather didn't cooperate. The set up for the fun ride was better than last year. Bike to School Week had more than 100 students participating. We are still collecting information from the survey. There were positive comments about the pop-up bike lane. There were 113 registered participants for Bike to Work Day, of which 58 were new attendees. These names have been added to the database and will be contacted about the survey and other BN activities. UD Bike Days and the First Friday Ride were well attended and should be repeated next year and we should keep working with Student Government Association to increase participation.

Cleveland Avenue project vote and Florida-T: Mark attended and spoke at the Council Meeting about Cleveland Avenue project. However, the Ordinance up for initial reading needs to be rewritten, so this is going to move its first reading to the June 26 meeting and push a discussion and vote on the Cleveland Avenue improvements to July 10. Mark spoke with 3 council members about Cleveland Ave. and the Florida-T, and each has a different perspective. Mark wanted them to know where BikeNewark stands on these issues. Karl Hassler has written about the Florida-T for the BikeNewark blog, but it has not been posted yet. He is emphasizing that the Florida-T is a public safety issue and a traffic issue, not a bike issue. DelDOT has produced some stats about the Florida-T. We need to stress that the Council should find the best solution for the most people affected. The Council will address the Florida-T after the other Cleveland Avenue issues are resolved. Susan Grasso and Barb Hughes spoke with Council members Chris Hamilton and Jen Wallace.

Committee updates:

Education and Encouragement: Lauri Webber reported that the committee suggested that we:

- a. have 2 sites on campus for UD Welcome Days.
- b. bring bike education to different schools.
- c. participate in Safety Classes that are scheduled for younger children at the end of July and the beginning of August.
- d. revisit the UD Summit Program which is a 3-4 day bike trip and possibly include the Newark Bike Project.
- e. participate in a Bike Benefits Program, where riders get stickers for their helmets to get reduction in cost of items to buy from the participating businesses. We could be a part of this national program.
- f. be included in planning the bike information for UD first-year students online training. Mark knows of an interested UD professor and avid cyclist (Ismat Shah) who can get his class involved.
- g. need to work with the Traffic Committee on the mini-circles on Orchard Road.
- h. keep working on the Main Street contraflow lane. Mark is going to work with Paul Moser to make an educational video about the flow.

Barb Hughes has taken responsibility for the First Friday Rides. There was a discussion about waiver signing, as they really don't stop legal issues. Do we need a waiver for the insurance or just a sign-in sheet? We are insured as a club for these rides, as long as the average number of participants is less than 50 per ride. There was a discussion about our bylaws and how riders become a member of BikeNewark just by participating in our events. We need to find a way, in addition to having this on our website, to inform riders of this before they are eligible to become a member. This also needs to be on sign-up sheet. White Clay Bicycle Club has similar issues. This needs to be ready by the next First Friday Ride. The ride will be on July 7 and will start at the Newark Shopping Center, go to the reservoir and end up at Timothy's.

Engineering: Mark reported on the June 2 committee meeting:

- a. Status of proposed mini-circles on Orchard Road: There was a pre-planning meeting on June 5. Neighbors will become involved in outreach discussions and planning. We want Orchard Road to become a model "bicycle boulevard" for other similar city streets. We're hoping to have a pop-up demonstration during part of August (being a slow month) and part of September (being a busy month).
- b. Main Street contraflow lane: Paul Moser has film footage of the intersection, which he's hoping DelDOT can pull vital information on movements through the intersection. The Traffic

Committee gave a go-ahead for DelDOT to implement this experimental set-up before students return to campus. We would have to come up with an education plan and work with the City of Newark Police Department and maybe the UD Police Department about an enforcement plan. Susan has talked with UD's Engineers Without Borders about collecting data. Mark and Paul plan to shoot some video that could be used how to safely navigate the proposed contraflow lane.

- c. Main Street update: It was suggested that we talk to Renee at the City of Newark and/or a Council member to get our letter, which was sent to the Mayor and City Council in February, on the docket. It was strongly recommended that we wait until after the Cleveland Avenue vote.
- d. Funds raised from the Mayor's Fun Ride exceeded \$14K and the Mayor is thinking about a covered bicycle-parking amenity near the transit depot. BikeNewark would like to recommend placing it near the Pomeroy Trail at Main Street.
- e. Delaware Avenue update: Mark reported that he heard from JMT that the concept plan is complete and the project is moving forward into detailed design. The "rough" schedule is to begin construction in 2019 after the repaving of Main Street which is scheduled for 2018.
- f. Train Station infrastructure discussion: Susan mentioned that as part of a TRIP agreement, WILMPACO's Dave Gula is meeting with a transit systems group about alignment of policies with respect to Newark's whole transportation system. UD's Dan Rich is also feeding the discussion with respect to sustainability planning.
- g. Begin strategy discussion with respect to project goals and Newark Bicycle Plan: Using the Bicycle Plan recommendations as a starting point, Karl Hassler suggested we create a simple shared spreadsheet list that we can update and track as progress is made. He volunteered to set it up. We also agreed that we need to do a "mini-update" of the plan every 5 years. We should also think about setting up a LAB-application working group to begin work in December. Specific streets we want to revisit and add amenities include Ray Street and McKees Lane.

Membership and Volunteer Coordination: No report other than what has been stated about volunteers and updating the database after National Bike Month.

Communications: Karen asked everyone to please put your pictures up on Facebook and tag people. Are there other ways to publicize the rides? Twitter has also been used by Sean and Heather. Information to be shared should be sent to them. Sean set up a calendar with current and upcoming events. There was a discussion on how First Friday Rides should appear on the website. In the end, it was decided that they should be on the top of the website with a link to the information about the rides. This will have to be updated monthly and be ready several weeks before each ride.

Identify voting member volunteers to regularly attend as BikeNewark representatives:

No one volunteered, so we will continue to look for someone to attend each of the following:
City of Newark Traffic Committee meets the third Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Police Department. The committee only meets if there is something on the agenda.
Downtown Newark Partnership meets the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room in City Hall. There is also a Design Committee of the DNP that meets the second Tuesday at Panera in the morning. Both of these committees only meet when they have an agenda item.

One talking point to feed Mayor Sierer for July City Council meeting: An update of the Delaware two-way protected bike lane project.

Old or new business: John Bare reported that on June 7 the House Bill 185 was passed out of committee after very few questions were asked. HB 185 will be introduced to the full House soon. It is expected to pass the House and then will go to the Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20.

Minutes taken by Lester Stein.