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## July Meeting Minutes – Draft #2

### July 20, 2017

Mark Deshon called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

#### **Member attendees:**

Brian Bahnson, Caitlynn Coster, Mark Deshon (Chair), Susan Grasso (Co-Chair) via phone, Karl Hassler, John Kozel, Bob McBride (Treasurer), Lester Stein (Secretary), Lauri Webber, Dave Saunders

#### **Partner liaison attendees:**

- City of Newark: Mike Fortner (Planning Dept.)
- DelDOT: Paul Moser
- WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan
- Bike Delaware: John Bare
- UD: Alex Skinner (UD Police Dept.)

**Guest:** Mayor Polly Sierer

**Adoption of meeting minutes from June 15, 2017:** The secretary mentioned there were two changes to the draft minutes that were emailed. One was that our insurance covers an average of 50 people per ride, and the second was that it is not Karl Hassler's blog but it's BikeNewark's blog. It was moved and seconded to approve minutes with the aforementioned minor changes. There was no discussion. Motion PASSED.

**Financial Report as of June 30, 2017:** The treasurer reported that there is \$341.00 in the bank. Expenses of \$657.00 were for brochure printing and T-shirts, not just T-Shirts as was reported. It was moved and seconded to approve finance report. Motion PASSED.

**Review of Places for Bikes Conference:** Mayor Polly Sierer attended the recent Places for Bikes conference in Madison, Wis. Places for Bikes is new program of the People for Bikes organization. Mayor Sierer reported that most municipalities are not able to fund all biking needs and need funding through grants and corporate sponsorships. Trek was a major sponsor of the conference. We are challenged to improvement biking in our communities to help improve the environment, traffic congestion, health, and economics. There is a national bicycle-tourism conference in November in Florida. Quick projects that were suggested: routes guides and cue sheets, urban art on the pavement, street crossings and bicycle signals at intersections, a "golden rollers" group for seniors, protected bike lanes with planters, etc., Boys & Girls clubs, faith-based organizations, and

publicizing bicycling at various kinds of events. Polly will be meeting with owner of Trek— John Burke. Vision Zero is a national movement started in New York. The goal is zero fatalities. The key is education and how to market what your biking programs are and the current issues facing bicyclists. It was asked if it would be feasible to sponsor an event and invite John Burke of Trek and other corporate leaders to lay out our plans/goals? This is something BikeNewark and the City of Newark will be addressing.

**One talking point to feed Mayor Sierer for August City Council meeting:** For the August City Council meeting, we are suggesting that she talk about First Friday Rides in connection with what she learned at the conference and since that the August ride will mark the first anniversary of this event and how it has impacted the community with UD and the City. As biking crosses all boundaries, how can we connect the north campus to the main campus? We want to make sure the City Council knows about the contraflow lane. Mark will talk with Tom Coleman on how to proceed. We also need to clarify the responsibility of the Traffic Committee and what we should do in advance of any work being done.

***Project Status:***

**Cleveland Ave. recommended improvements:** Mark reported that the council voted to ban parking on Cleveland Avenue between North College Avenue and North Chapel Street, which will allow for bike lanes there. Contact your councilperson to vote for all of the other recommendations. It may take a year or more to implement the no-parking plan.

**Main Street trial contraflow lane:** The Traffic Committee approved a temporary contraflow lane to be set up in August and continue through the spring 2018 semester. Bicyclists will use the current bike lane southbound on North College Avenue and be allowed to make a left into a designated contraflow lane only during the pedestrian-scramble signal phase and only while yielding to pedestrians. During that phase, they may also either turn right heading west on Main Street or move straight across the intersection and then dismount, in accordance with the University of Delaware rules and Newark law. Once in the contraflow lane, bicyclists will have to turn right onto South College Avenue and yield to pedestrians crossing South College Avenue in the Main Street crosswalk. During the other `signal phases, only right turns can be made from the North College Avenue bike land and only after a full stop on solid red light. DelDOT will be applying paint and installing signs by mid-August, to have it ready before UD students return to campus. BikeNewark is working on a short educational video aimed at for UD students and will be ready for UD and the City of Newark to promote on social media.

**Orchard Road pop-up mini-circle(s) demonstration:** Susan reported that BikeNewark and the Friends of Newark Neighborhood Streets are working with the Traffic Committee. A presentation was made to the Traffic Committee and now they need to see if large emergency vehicles will be able to get through the mini-circle. There is one mini-circle planned for Orchard Road at Winslow Road. If there are enough materials, there may be a second one at Orchard Road at Sunset Road. The time frame of September 17–30 is when the mini-circle(s) will be in operation. Heather said that the suggestion had been made to use white tape to delineate the bump-out. Questions remain about the funding of the project. The City of Newark has some of the materials, but we are not sure about the other expenses. The Friends of Newark Neighborhood Streets is proving some materials and labor. Hopefully, the rest will be part of the city's capital budget.

BikeNewark is planning for a couple of pre-semester UD new-student events on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be two locations on Saturday—near Perkins Student Center and Laird Campus. On Sunday, there will be a bike ride about 4:30 p.m. We need to know the times for the events to recruit volunteers. We need to check on times of move in. Last year, information about our events was included in the students' welcome packets.

### ***Committee Updates:***

**Education and Encouragement:** Susan reported that most of committee's work has been on the mini-circles. There is a meeting scheduled with Downes Elementary. The response from the survey is that they want to have a protected bike lane. The First Friday ride will be to UDairy.

**Engineering:** The committee did not meet since the last meeting. The committee assigned homework to rank the projects listed in the Newark Bicycle Plan. How do we get the city to talk about these issues? The concept plan for the Delaware Avenue two-way projected bikeway project is complete, and the project is now moving forward into detailed design. The proposed schedule is to begin construction on Delaware Avenue in 2019 after the repaving of Main Street in 2018.

**Safety and Enforcement:** Barb Hughes wants to step down. Mark asked if there are any volunteers to take over the committee. There was no response, so we are looking for someone to step up.

**Membership and Volunteer Coordination:** Caitlynn connected with the Bike to Work Day attendees and had received some feedback, and a couple of people are now involved in some volunteer capacity.

**Communications:** Mark and Bob figured out how to get the PayPal button to work on the website so that donations may be accepted online. BikeNewark is still looking for someone to take over responsibility for *The Messenger Bag*—BikeNewark's e-newsletter.

### ***Old or new business:***

**Passage of HB 185 – the “Bicycle-Friendly Delaware Act”:** John Bare said this bill raised the bar on biking laws. It will allow for bicycle-related traffic signals along with a “Delaware yield” law in most locations. It doesn't apply to signalized intersections, however. As of this meeting, the bill still needed to be signed into law by Governor Carney.

**Public workshop to discuss Rodney dorm:** There is a meeting to be held Tuesday, July 25, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. at City Hall. BikeNewark is concerned about the tunnel under the CSX railroad track, as it is major connector for walkers and bikers.

The City got a sustainability grant from DNREC for \$80,000. The City wants a representative from BikeNewark to work on this grant. The kick-off will on Community Day.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, August 17, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lester Stein