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## August Meeting Minutes August 17, 2017

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

**Member attendees:** Mark Deshon (Chair), Kark Hassler, Barb Hughes, John Kozel, Karen Rosenberg, Lester Stein (Secretary), Dale Weiss

**Partner liaison attendees:**

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

University of Delaware: Ban Phommachanh (Parking), Alex Skinner (UD Police)

City of Newark: Joe Spadafino (Parks & Rec); Greg D'Elia and Jay Conover (Police)

**Guest:** Ian Peters (Resident/UD student)

### **Adoption of meeting minutes from July 20, 2017**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 20, 2017 as circulated. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

### **Financial Report as of July 31, 2017**

Mark Deshon reported on behalf of Treasurer Bob McBride, who could not attend. The opening balance was \$341.08. Income contributions totaled \$80.74, and expenses of \$6.00 in bank fees were incurred. The ending balance was \$415.82. A motion was made and seconded. It was noted that bank fees apply when the balance is less than \$500.00. Motion passed.

### **Quick project status**

***Cleveland Avenue recommended improvements*** – Karl Hassler reported it took two hours for City Council to hear a presentation, public comments, and discuss all the Cleveland Avenue Task Force recommendations this past Monday evening. DelDOT's Mark Luszcz and WRA's Matt Buckley (engineering consultant to DelDOT) did a great job with the presentation and engineering work. Mark and Karl each suggested that Council vote on the recommendations as a package. The Council acceded and subsequently voted, approving the recommendations unanimously.

***Main Street trial contraflow lane*** – Mark reported that BikeNewark had put together an educational video, and it was shown to those in attendance. The video is on BikeNewark's website

and has been posted on Facebook. The video has been given to Megan McGuriman at City of Newark and UD Police Department, both of whom will be promoting the video. John Kozak suggested sending an article draft with the video to UDaily. Ian Peters indicated that there is also a weekly email blast to students, who should know about the contraflow lane. Sean Watson will be sharing the video with Resident Assistants on the Laird Campus. Mark asked if the UD police and/or Newark Police plan to monitor that intersection, particularly at the beginning of the semester. The officers in attendance are going to inquire about that. BikeNewark will be doing some in-person data gathering as well. Karl said he thought that Paul Moser had said that DelDOT cameras positioned there could capture data too.

***Orchard Road pop-up mini-circle(s) demonstration*** – Heather Dunigan reported that the City’s Traffic Committee met on Tuesday and gave approval for the pop-up mini-circle demonstration, located at the Orchard Road and Winslow Road intersection, to start on Friday, September 15. The Department of Public Works & Water Resources decided to reduce the dimensions of inner circle to about 10 feet. There will be a community survey during the two-week trial period. The Newark Police Department will be providing traffic data during the trial period. Barb Hughes asked if the trial period could be extended one week so that the mini-circle would be available for the October First Friday Ride. Another suggestion was that we should wait to see if it is successful before using it for the First Friday ride. Barb suggested that feedback from First Friday Ride participants might be helpful. No one was sure how the City would feel about extending the trial period. It was also noted that the shrubs shouldn’t exceed three feet in height, so that they don’t interfere with sight lines at the intersection.

***Downes Safety Routes to School grant*** – Heather Dunigan reported there was a meeting last week and that dates have been set for public outreach for the beginning of school. There are three design options for the proposed bike lane, the decision for which will take place at the September 19 meeting. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. at the John R. Downes Elementary School. Information about the cost will be available at the meeting. There will also be a display on site.

### **Final planning for pre-semester UD new students “Welcome Days”**

***Bike Central Tent—Sat., Aug. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Harrington Commons*** – Mark and Barb each volunteered for a 10:00-12:00 time slot. It would be a good idea to publicize the Sunday Blue Hens Bike Newark Ride to all attendees at the Bike Central Tent events. More help is needed. Please contact Mark if you are able to help.

***Bike Central Tent—Sun., Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Laird Campus bridge (south end)*** – Lester and Mark volunteered to work this event, Mark from 10:00-12:00. More help is needed. Please contact Mark if you are able to help.

***Blue Hens Bike Newark Ride—Sun., Aug. 27, 4:30 p.m. at the “Little Bob”*** – The purpose of this ride is to familiarize new students about biking in Newark and on campus. Volunteers are needed for the ride. Please contact Susan Grasso if you are able to help.

Heather Dunigan said that the Newark Bike Project will have mechanics for the Bike Central Tents. Ban Phommachanh reported that he has obtained 100 front lights and 100 back lights to be given

away during Welcome Days. The lights are easy to install and remove without tools. We need to remind the riders that these lights should be removed when the bike is not in use.

## **Final Planning for Community Day**

***Sunday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on The Green*** – Mike Fortner was not at the meeting. Usually we have a tent and tables that the City provides. Joe Spadafino will check with Mike to see that our table is next to The Friends of Newark Neighborhood Streets, so that we can share information about the mini-circle trial period.

We need volunteers for this event. Ian, Mark, Karen, Lester, Ban, and Dale Weiss have volunteered so far. Please contact Mark if you are able to help and what times you are available.

As far as materials go, we will provide general information about BikeNewark, along with safety information and maps. Barb suggested that we produce and sell BikeNewark t-shirts. Barb will contact Lauri Webber about the source of the UD Bike Days t-shirts. There were also extra t-shirts from the UD Bike Days events that could be sold. Mark suggested that these extras be used during 1743 Welcome Days (see event notes above). Karl suggested that we take a fresh look into the Bicycle Benefits program, which costs \$5.00 for memberships to get discounts at local merchants. Ban says he may have some leftover bike lights we could give away.

With regard to interactivity, we will be showing the contraflow bike lane video and want to work with the Friends of Newark Neighborhood Streets group with regard to the mini-circle project. We will also be asking anyone who has used the contraflow lane about his/her experience.

## **Committee Updates**

***Education and Encouragement*** – Barb is capturing email and contact information from First Friday Rides participants. She is going to send info to Mark so that he can forward to the Mayor. This month's ride will stop by the Policing Station on Main Street, and we hope to have one or two Newark police officers joining us on the September ride. There is going to be a bicycling-themed display in the National 5 & 10 store window, with mention of BikeNewark and the Newark Bike Project.

**Engineering** – Mark reported that, at the August 4 meeting, the committee began working on prioritizing the project goals for 2018 with respect to the Newark Bicycle Plan, which includes considerations for South College Avenue and supporting the Pomeroy Trail Connector. Also discussed were adding sharrows on various streets in Newark and suggestions for increased signage.

- Karl volunteered to help monitor the contraflow lane, and we hope to have some UD students to help with the monitoring. There was some question about whether DelDOT's Paul Moser said there are currently cameras there that can capture video on use.
- There was a discussion about the signals for crossing Main Street at the Pomeroy Trail in Newark. Karen Rosenberg said that the newer signals demand that the button be pressed until the voice is activated in order for them to work.

**Communications** – Karen reported that there is now a calendar page on the website that lists meetings and events. Please send Karen any relevant info you want included in the calendar. Our July-published e-newsletter includes an article asking for volunteers for various BikeNewark volunteer needs/roles.

### **One talking point to feed Mayor Sierer for September City Council meeting**

The consensus was that we provide the Mayor information on the pop-up mini-circle demonstration and UD 1743 Welcome Days events.

### **Old or new business**

**Main Street Policing Station** – Officer Greg D’Elia said the Newark police will be in the Policing Station on Main Street on Saturdays starting in September and asked if there is BikeNewark would like to participate with respect to its educational outreach efforts. This will be referred to the Education and Encouragement committee.

**Parks & Rec budget meeting** – Joe Spadafino mentioned that the City is working to connect the Pomeroy Trail to Curtis Mill Park with a bridge. There will be a meeting on August 28 for the Council to decide if they want to proceed with this project. Call your Council rep encouraging them to vote for this project. Joe S will be forwarding information about the project to our email list.

**Downtown Newark Partnership report** – Mark formally introduced Dale, who is BikeNewark’s liaison with the Downtown Newark Partnership (DNP). Dale reported that DNP has a new board chair, John Marco, who is associated with the management of Klondike Kates. There will be four committees formed—Design, Economic Enhancement, Merchants, and Ad hoc. Dale mentioned the Revenue Sharing Project and that the City is looking for people to review applications. She asked if BikeNewark had ever submitted an application. This should be considered for 2018. Dale is not able to attend the next DNP meeting, September 14 at City Hall 6:30 p.m. and asked for a volunteer to attend. Lester agreed to go to the September meeting. Dale shared the calendar of DNP proposed events for 2018.

**County Bike Plan public workshop** – WILMAPCO is hosting a workshop on Monday, September 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the Newark Library. This year’s workshop will include the New Castle County Bike Plan.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lester Stein