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September Meeting Minutes September 21, 2017

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

Member attendees: Caitlynn Strong, Mark Deshon (Chair), Karl Hassler, Bob McBride (Treasurer), Karen Rosenberg, Dave Saunders, Lester Stein (Secretary), Lauri Webber, Ian Peters, Susan Grasso (Co-Chair)

Partner liaison attendees:

Bike Delaware: John Bare

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

City of Newark: Tim Filasky (Public Works & Water Resources)

Guests: Tom Price (non-resident), Helga Huntley (resident), Corinth Ford (resident)

Adoption of meeting minutes from August 17, 2017

A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 17 minutes as circulated. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

Financial Report as of August 31, 2017

The opening balance was \$341.08. Since last report, there has been income of \$105.74 and no expenses. The ending balance was \$446.82. A motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Quick project status

Main Street trial contraflow lane – Mark Deshon reported that BikeNewark is reviewing the intersection to see how the contraflow lane is being used. Compliance seems to be improving. Some bikers are going the wrong way in both the contraflow lane and the new bike lane on South College Ave. Not sure what we can do about this. Karl Hassler said that we should look for the number of compliant riders and categorize the non-compliant by type of issues. Some bikers have been ticketed when going the wrong way in the bike lane on Delaware Ave. These may be issues for the Safety and Enforcement Committee.

Orchard Road pop-up mini-circle demonstration – There is a mini-circle user-experience survey on our website. Installation seemed to go well. Sixty surveys have been returned. There were no

problems with the fire trucks getting through the mini-circle. Two regular-size school buses got through, as well.

Downes Safe Routes to School grant – Helga Huntley reported on the three possible options for use of the grant funds. There were outreach efforts at Community Day and at John R. Downes Elementary School. There will be a public hearing held at the school on October 4 from 4–7 p.m. There will be some kind of buffer between the bike and car lane, each of the three options defining a different lane-safety treatment—paint only, paint with rumble strips, paint with flexible delineators (bollards). One of the options includes a midblock crosswalk with a refuge island at the school.

Fall semester Bike Central events

Mark mentioned the dates of October 16 and 18 on Delaware Avenue at The Green, though these dates have not been finalized. Dates and details will be published as soon as they are known. *[Post-meeting note: October 18, from 1–3 p.m. on Delaware Avenue at The Green has been confirmed, and UD is still trying to fix a second date for this fall.]*

Report on relevant Downtown Newark Partnership (DNP) action

Lester Stein attended the most recent DNP meeting for Dale Weiss and reported that the Delaware Valley Camaro Club approached the DNP about having its car shows in Newark. The DNP will be working with the City of Newark to find out if the event is possible. Heather Dunigan suggested that Dale begin to attend DNP design committee meetings, rather than the general DNP meetings.

Report on relevant Newark Traffic Committee action

John Kozel was not present to make a report. Tim Filasky said that one issue the City is considering is the removal of on-street parking south of the Rite Aid on New London Road.

Bill-signing event

John Bare reported that the Governor will be signing SB 78 and HB 185 at a ceremony on October 5 at 2:00 p.m. on E. Main Street and the Pomeroy Trail. (near the Trek).

Committee Updates

Education and Encouragement – No report.

Engineering – Mark reported that the committee spent time talking about current projects and that the committee will come up with a priority list for 2018. DelDOT wants BikeNewark to work with them on signage for a proposed central Newark loop. Additional help is needed for data collection on use of the contraflow lane. Mark will provide spreadsheet to those who indicated interest in helping collect data.

Communications – Karen Rosenberg had nothing to report. Caitlynn Strong asked about the next newsletter. We need someone to take on that responsibility.

Membership and Volunteer Coordination – Caitlyn has list of students from Susan and Sean.

Safety and Enforcement – Mark indicated that we need a new chairperson to keep this committee working, as Barb Hughes has stepped down from this responsibility. The committee, which includes law enforcement departments from the City and UD, is meant to bring together our concerns and help Newark PD and UDPD with enforcement issues related to bicycling. Tom Price indicated that he might be willing to step up. Mark will put him in contact with Barb.

Evaluation – We need to set up this committee to begin to gather data for grant proposals and so that we make sound evaluation of our projects. Ian Peters volunteered to chair this committee. The committee should also figure out what data we should be collecting. A possible project would be to re-issue the UD employee bicycle survey that was done in 2011. Caitlynn will put out an email to the wider community member list to see if anyone is interested in volunteering for this committee.

Initial planning for LAB Bicycle Friendly Community application

Heather said the application is due by February. Heather will need some help to answer the questions. Mike Fortner will be a contact. Bob McBride also volunteered to help. Heather will have more info and needs by the next meeting.

One talking point to suggest to Mayor Sierer for October City Council meeting

An update on the mini-circle demonstration project and the announcement of the bill signing that will have taken place on October 5.

Old or new business

Corinth Ford suggested that the biking community do a fundraiser for the Charlie Emerson bridge, which would help improve the image of the biking community. It was also suggested that BikeNewark should think about other fundraising events for various educational programs and infrastructure projects. Lighting has not been part of the funding plan for the Emerson Bridge. Parking has been removed from Cleveland Ave. Tim Filasky reported that the City of Newark submitted a grant proposal to the Delaware Bicycle Council to help defray some of the costs for the proposed completion of the Pomeroy Connector trail (currently a utility easement between Fremont Road and Creek Road).

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, October 19, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

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

Minutes taken by Lester Stein