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October Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2017

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

Member attendees: Mark Deshon (Chair), Karl Hassler, Bob McBride (Treasurer), Karen Rosenberg, Dave Saunders, Lester Stein (Secretary), Ian Peters, Sean Watson

Partner liaison attendees:

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

City of Newark: Joe Spadafino (Parks & Rec), Darryl Saunders (Police)

DelDOT: Paul Moser

University of Delaware: Ban Phommachanh (Parking), Matthew McNichol (Police)

Guests: Helga Huntley (resident), Tom Price

Adoption of meeting minutes from September 21, 2017

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 21, 2017, minutes as circulated. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

Financial Report as of September 30, 2017

The opening balance was \$411.83. Since the last report, there has been income of \$125.01 and \$10.00 expenses. The ending balance was \$526.84. A motion was made and seconded. Motion passed. Karl Hassler noted that the opening balance this month does not equal the closing balance from last month and strongly urged that these reports be contiguous, one meeting date to the next, in how the figures are reported. Bob McBride agreed to do this. Bob also will look into the monthly service charge the account is incurring.

Quick project status

Main Street trial contraflow lane evaluation – Mark Deshon reported that two-thirds of 201 cyclists observed stayed in the bike lane until the Delaware Avenue intersection. About 53% of the riders rode legally. There were only two instances of dangerous bicycling behavior observed. The contraflow lane has been an improvement. Later observations seem to indicate greater compliance with time. The trial basis continues through spring semester. It was noted that some bicyclists are riding north in southbound bike lane on South College Ave. UD police are there during class changes and will look into this. It was suggested that another arrow is needed near the end of the South College Ave. bike lane.

Orchard Road pop-up mini-circle evaluation – The survey is now closed. Nearly half of the respondents (49%) like it and would like the mini-circle to become permanent. A large percentage (47%) either didn't like it or had specific concerns. Both sides said it slowed traffic. Some said they had trouble maneuvering through the circle. Some indicated that larger vehicles have difficulty. Some vehicles were observed turning left in front of the circle. Lack of pedestrian space was noted. The mini-circle needs some modification in design if it becomes permanent.

Downes Safe Routes to School grant – Based on user-experience survey feedback, support from workshop attendees was mixed. The pedestrian island is a concern of neighbors, as they think it is going to cause traffic to be diverted through the adjoining neighborhood (Nottingham Green). There was not a large turnout at the meeting. The painted buffer with pedestrian island version seemed to be preferred. The project is still open for public comment through November 4.

Discussion on additional Bike Central events

A Bike Central event was held yesterday on Delaware Avenue. There was a lot of foot traffic and lighter-than-usual bike traffic. No major repairs were made. Twelve sets of lights were installed, and safety information was given out. Karl suggested that BikeNewark needs to print a small list of safety issues as part of our educational outreach. Mark said that he and Susan had discussed this as well. BikeNewark is working with UD to try to find a date to have the second Bike Central event. A "UDrive" transportation event will be held on November 15 noon to 4:00 p.m., and we may be able to participate. It was suggested that the Bike Central tent be located near the southwest corner of Delaware Avenue and South College Avenue from 1-3 p.m.

Report on new UD Bicycle committee

Sean Watson reported that the committee had had its first meeting this week. The group is currently in a research stage and is examining best practices. At its next meeting, they will be looking at other universities that have a good biking reputation. The group will be evaluating main intersections during rush times like class changes. BikeNewark would like to be part of the process. There was a question about what bicyclists are allowed to do during the scramble phase at Delaware and South College Avenue. Bicyclists can ride through the scramble but must yield to pedestrians. This needs to be clarified and publicized.

Committee Updates

Education and Encouragement – no report

Engineering – There will be "walk through" meeting for Pomeroy Connector Trail on October 24 from 10:30 to 12:30. The Delaware Bicycle Council will be assessing the project in view of the City's grant application, the amount of the award of which could be between \$20K to \$40K, which would decrease the City's cost. It was also mentioned that the City's staff has come up with some in-house-designed equipment that would also reduce the cost to the City. There was a suggestion to put the committee's 2018 priorities on the website and include in the minutes (see attached). DelDOT is moving forward with initial designs for the bikeway signage. Paul Moser brought a sample burgundy-colored sign that Mark showed everyone. Mark will work on furnishing information for specific signage for specific locations after a "go ahead" from the City. The next committee meeting will be held Friday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. WRA's Jeff Reigner will be there to discuss transportation issues near the new train station.

Communications – no report

Evaluation Committee – Ian Peters reported that the purpose of the committee has been added to the website’s Committees page. The committee is looking at sources of data. They are also reviewing the observations from the contraflow lane and the traffic counts and video taken during the aforementioned mini-circle demonstration project. DelDOT is creating software to evaluate traffic flow on North College Ave. and the mini-traffic circle. The committee will help gather data for the process of writing the application to the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) for Bicycle Friendly Community status. Newark is hoping to move up to “silver” status in 2018.

Membership and Volunteer Coordination – no report [Committee chair Caitlynn Strong is always ready to help find individuals for specific tasks. Just let her know what talents are needed.]

Planning for LAB Bicycle Friendly Community application

Heather Dunigan is starting the application, which is much longer than in previous years. The application is due Feb 13, and Heather will be asking for assistance during the process.

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

Let the City Council know that BikeNewark has been organizing evening events during which lights are given to and installed for bicyclists (primarily UD students)—“Bike Lights on Demand.”

Old or new business

Joe Spadafino reported that the City received another \$100K grant for help in funding the proposed Charlie Emerson Bridge. He also announced that a bike shelter will be located on Main Street at the Pomeroy Trail. There will also be a repair station there.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, November 16, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lester Stein