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April Meeting Minutes April 19, 2018

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

Member attendees: Mark Deshon (Chair), Bob McBride (Treasurer), Karen Rosenberg, and Barb Hughes

Partner liaison attendees:

Bike Delaware: John Bare

City of Newark: Joe Spadafino (Parks & Recreation), Ofc. Alex Whitt (Newark Police)

University of Delaware: Ofc. Bill Knightly (UD Police)

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

Announcement

Bob McBride said he wished to thank BikeNewark member Sean Watson and the others who helped him recently after his bike accident during a Wooden Wheels–sponsored ride. His shoulder is healing (ACL joint fracture), but still painful.

Adoption of March meeting minutes

No changes had been suggested to the minutes as were sent out to the members and partner liaisons. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the March minutes as presented. Attending members adopted the minutes.

Monthly financial report and adoption of report

Bob reported that BikeNewark had received a \$500 grant from the White Clay Bicycle Club since our last meeting. This was the only change to our account, bringing the current fund balance to \$1,272.76. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the financial report as presented. Attending members adopted the report. Mark Deshon suggested that later in the meeting we might discuss how some of the grant money might be spent (see Bike to School Week item).

Bob then presented information about an initial filing of Form 990 to the federal government, which he said was largely a piece of accounting. Though BikeNewark has not applied for 501(c)(3) status, he shared the type of information that is needed—how we spent money we've received—which he's trying to piece together, mostly from our list of accomplishments in 2017, though he

said it's difficult to accurately trace expenses for most of these. John Bare mentioned that Bike Delaware uses an "EZ card" form, which can be done during subsequent filing years. Heather Dunigan said this work would provide a good record for our organization.

Joe Spadafino pointed out that the City of Newark often partners with 501(c)(3) organizations for grant participation. Funder's rules sometimes stipulate that only governmental and tax-exempt organizations are eligible for a grant.

Brief report on UD bike committee

No one was present to report on this committee's activities.

Spring events update

- ***First Friday Rides – May 4, June 1***

Barb Hughes has been approached by the UD Student Government Association (SGA) to partner with BikeNewark for the May 4 First Friday Ride. Barb said she wants to start the ride at the usual starting place and then go to "pick up" SGA students along the route. She said she was hoping to have a route that loops around campus so that students can be shown safe-riding locations in and around campus. Heather requested that Barb send her information about the route so that she can create a map, which Barb will then post online on the dedicated event page. Barb will setup email notification to remind people about future rides. Mark suggested that this email list should be stored on the shared Gmail drive so that it can be used for all sorts of events. Barb indicated it is there now. Barb cannot lead the June First Friday Ride; therefore, we need a substitute leader. She said she will see if Jordan (of Little Goat Coffee Roasters) will be able to help.

- ***UD Bike Days – Apr. 29–May 4***

Yesterday, Mark and Ismat Shah met with SGA's Grace Pederson to discuss collaboration on UD Bike Days. They hoped to have a splashy first day on April 30, First Friday Ride in May, and a bike trivia event at Perkins Student Center during the week. Susan Grasso has signs that had been used last year.

[Editor's note: Since the meeting, UD Bike Days had been cancelled for this year.]

- ***Bike to School Week – May 7–11 at Downes Elementary School***

BikeTrains are to be organized for each day of the week from four areas near the school. Newark PD will be asked to help with traffic control, and Downes staff member Sandy Hudson is coordinating the event for the school. Permission is pending from DelDOT to mock up the proposed Safe Routes to School project crosswalk at the school. We discussed the issue of how northbound bicycles would travel and enter the school property. Bike lanes are considered shoulders and are thus open for traffic use in passing stopped vehicles, which does create a conflict for bicyclists. A \$500 grant received for Bike to School week safety from DelDOT. Perhaps BikeNewark can make a contribution to help support the weeklong event. Mark proposed a \$100 contribution from BikeNewark. This was moved, seconded, and approved.

- ***Bike to Work Day – Friday, May 18***

On behalf of event coordinator Mike Fortner, Mark reported that New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer will be keynote speaker. Another county official will also be present. Acting City Manager Tom Coleman will represent City of Newark. President Assanis has been asked to represent UD but he has not been confirmed. Acting Provost Robin Morgan will speak, if President Assanis cannot. Bloom Energy has a Bike to Work committee and is again planning to attend. Mayor's Proclamation will be read at Council Meeting on May 14. BikeNewark members and partner liaisons should show up in support of this proclamation. Joe confirmed that the City Parks & Recreation staff will deliver tables and the PA system that morning. Bike captains for bike trains from neighborhoods are needed. Barb volunteered to lead a train from Chrysler Ave. at Elkton Road. Proceeds from the Mayor's Bike Ride in the amount of \$300 will be used to cover event costs. Heather suggested that we should still seek business sponsorships. Mark said that the issue is not whether we should, but who will do the legwork. Publicity is needed, both electronically and on paper (signs). During our next BikeNewark partnership meeting (May 17), we will review last-minute needs.

- ***Mayor's Fun Ride – Saturday, June 2***

Joe reported that the event will use the same courses as last year and that the rain date is June 9. So far, sponsors include Trek and Newark Shopping Center owners Atlantic Realty. Newark Bike Project and AAA will be represented at the event. A total of \$6,400 in sponsorship has been generated so far. Bike safety activities and other things to be offered at the event site (Newark Shopping Center) are still to be determined. Funds raised will be used for bicycle information signs along the Hall and Pomeroy Trails and improvements to bike-repair stations.

Update on status of 2018 infrastructure goals

Mark met with Tom Coleman on March 29 to share BikeNewark concerns related to South College Avenue. Tom informed Mark that the city's Traffic Committee will hear a proposal for relocating 15 parking spaces from South College Avenue near Morris Library to another Amstel Avenue, with a net gain of three spaces. This proposal also includes restricting that first block of Amstel Avenue to one way eastbound. Also discussed were connectivity issues from South College Avenue to the Hall Trail. BikeNewark is hoping that DelDOT, UD, and City of Newark are all talking together. Heather stated that she feels BikeNewark should draft a letter on behalf of the city to DelDOT to request that DelDOT drive a project-planning process for South College Avenue, that BikeNewark be included in that planning process, and that this project should include the I-95/SR896 interchange area all the way to East Main Street. Mark will draft such a letter to project manager Mark Tudor, asking that DelDOT get all parties and stakeholders together to begin planning, well ahead of any scheduled paving/rehab work. Once Main Street paving is finished, this project will likely begin. BikeNewark planning for a future City of Newark bikeway is still progressing in terms of discussion with some of its partners.

Bike Central Report

Mark reported that a Newark Bike Project mechanic, DelDOT's John Fiore, some UD and City of Newark Police, and he conducted our second of two Bike Central events on UD's campus in front of Kirkbride Hall. The crew installed an equivalent of 10 sets of bike lights. Mark said that the prevailing opinion from those who have helped this year is that we need to take this event back to the UD Green for visibility in the future, because the Kirkbride Hall location is mostly a pedestrian

thoroughfare. We have been asked by SGA if we could do a Bike Central event at Perkins Student Center on Mon April 30 in connection with UD Bike Days (see previous note on UD Bike Days).

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

Three points seemed to make sense for the Mayor to mention at this meeting—the Bicycle Friendly Community award announcement (should the city know by then), Bike to Work Day, and the Mayor’s Fun Ride.

Discussion of survey results and potential change(s) to meeting schedule

Based on member survey feedback, Mark suggested that we start our partnership meeting at 4:30 p.m. to try to increase attendance. Heather noted that we should make sure to include partners’ concerns early in the meeting, rather than later, to accommodate liaison work schedules. Alternative meetings (on a quarterly basis) were also indicated in the survey data, though there was did not appear to be a lot of definitive volunteer organizational support. We might be able to use the City of Newark’s Wilson Center with ample notice. We will be thinking about alternatives for meetings to involve more of the community, possibly planning a start in June. The May meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Old or new business

- ***Ride of Silence***

Should we re-organize a Ride of Silence in Newark for May 16? Barb said she thought this was a good idea and would be willing to organize it. Wilmington’s Ride of Silence will take place this year at the Goodstay Center.

- ***May 3 Delaware Walkable/Bikeable Summit***

Representative volunteers for the May 3 Delaware Walkable/Bikeable Summit will be Mark Deshon, Bob McBride, Karl Hassler, Diane Kukich, and Tom Price. Mark asked John Bare to let us know exactly what we will be asked to do in terms of our volunteer responsibilities at the event. John said he would find out and let us know.

- ***Town Hall Meetings on upcoming City of Newark Referendum***

Joe urged everyone to come to the meetings whether you oppose or support the referendum to learn about what is planned for the proposed spending, including the Rodney project.

Next Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be Thursday, May 17, at 4:30 at WILMAPCO.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. Minutes were taken by Bob McBride and Mark Deshon.