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## May Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2018

Mark Deshon called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Member attendees:** Mark Deshon (Chair), Bob McBride (Treasurer), Dave Saunders, Karl Hassler, Karen Rosenberg, and Helga Huntley

**Partner liaison attendees:**

DelDOT: Paul Moser

City of Newark: Ofc. Nate Graber (Police), Ofc. Alex Whitt (Police)

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

University of Delaware: Ban Phommachanh (Parking), Ofc. William Knightly (Police)

**Guest:** Bryan Horsey (Bloom Energy)

### **Brief report on UD bike committee**

Ban Phommachanh reported that the UD Executive Vice President set up this group as part of the University's recent legal settlement for the bike/pedestrian fatality, which occurred a few years ago. He said that the process is about 80-85% complete; they are targeting to send their report to legal and the UD Trustees in August 2018. Ban reiterated that the purpose is *not* to ban bicycling on campus but to manage safety with bikes and pedestrians.

They have recommended that UD hire a Bicycle Coordinator (staff position), whose job would focus on education and safety for bikes and pedestrians in conjunction with UD Police. It has been suggested that a University police officer might help with this as part of his/her regular duties. UD Parking/Facilities would be responsible for covering bike parking, repair stations, racks, and other facilities items in consultation with the Bicycle Coordinator.

We discussed how different sections of campus were assigned based on outside counsel from consultants who have observed campus behavior. Mark Deshon mentioned that BikeNewark is still concerned that UD has not provided good alternatives to cyclists at the North/Laird Campus access bridge since the bridge had been designated as "walk your bike" zone.

Many of the same problems might occur on the South College Avenue mixed-use sidewalk bridge. Mark feels that the City of Newark, UD, and DelDOT need to attend to this, because it's clear that not all parties think alike with respect to how pedestrian and bicycle traffic should be handled on this bridge. Based on planning and work done this year, east-west routes through Newark will be much more bike-friendly within a few short years. This leaves the major north-south route (South College Avenue) problematic without more coordinated planning.

Helga Huntley noted that at the University of Washington bike riding is banned during certain times of day on parts of the campus. Ban noted that suggestions like this would be considered by the new Bicycle Coordinator.

### ***Bikeshare questions***

The question of whether to have a bikeshare system on the UD campus and/or in the City of Newark had raised some concerns in the past. We hope to find out whether anyone at the City of Newark or UD has had contact from companies. Ban did champion this effort a few years ago for UD, but, ultimately, because of other factors, no action was taken by UD to move forward with a bikeshare system. Ban thinks that any decisions about potential bikeshare systems must be coordinated between UD and the City to avoid a mess on campus and on the city streets.

### **Bike to Work Day**

This event, initially scheduled for Friday, May 18, has been rescheduled to Monday, May 21, due to rain forecast for Friday. Despite the schedule change, all of the invited speakers can attend on Monday. Mark mentioned that it would be helpful if police could help with traffic during the arrival period, roughly 7:30-8:00. Unfortunately, due to the rescheduling, the large group from Bloom Energy cannot attend; however, Bloom helped sponsor the event anyway! Thanks very much to Bloom Energy.

### ***League of American Bicyclists BFC designation***

Heather Dunigan indicated that the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) designation is not yet ready for public announcement. People For Bikes, however, ranked Newark #7 among cities with a population under 100,000 and 39th overall among all cities nationwide that participated in its Places For Bikes City Rating program.

### ***Bicycle Friendly Community Leader Award***

The Bicycle Friendly Community Leader Award this year will be given to John Bare of Bike Delaware. John is a dedicated BikeNewark partner liaison, who is receiving the award this year because of his foundational work on the Bicycle Friendly Delaware Act, which was signed into law this past October.

### **Mayor's Fun Ride, Saturday, June 2**

BikeNewark needs to secure volunteers to help with this event, since Mark and Susan Grasso will not be able to attend. Needed is table coverage for information from 10:00-12:30. Bob McBride will be starter volunteer for each ride—Family Fun Ride at 10:15 and Newark Loop Ride at 11:00. He will man the table before and afterward. Paul Moser will be working to organize the bicycle skills course.

### **Cycling Infrastructure Innovation Grant opportunity**

The Delaware Bicycle Council's Statewide Policy Planning group for DelDOT awards project grants for innovation. Sometimes these have been for parking, sometimes studies and/or construction of pathways for biking/walking. Grants are awarded up to about \$40K (total all grants for the entire state) each year to participating municipalities. The application must come from Delaware

towns/cities; BikeNewark may be a source of advice to and in partnership with the City of Newark on such a grant. Heather noted that in the past these grants have been hard to win.

### ***Low-stress bikeway***

Mark indicated that BikeNewark would be coordinating with City of Newark staff in the establishment of a low-stress bikeway throughout the city. Mark says he hopes to start planning process soon, using the new DelDOT sign patterns for bikeways.

### **One talking point to suggest to Mayor Sierer for June City Council meeting**

The consensus among those attending felt that the Mayor ought to highlight the following at the June 11 meeting.

- People For Bikes' Places For Bikes City Rating for Newark
- Latest LAB Bicycle Friendly Community designation for Newark, assuming it will have been released by then

### **Adoption of April meeting minutes**

April minutes were considered as circulated electronically. Bob had accidentally included a non-final draft, but Mark had corrected this and resubmitted the final draft for consideration. It was moved and seconded that the circulated minutes be adopted; the motion was approved.

### **Monthly financial report and adoption of report**

As of May 17, 2018—

Contributions/Income: total \$600

- \$500 community grant from White Clay Bicycle Club
- \$100 contribution toward Bike to Work event from Bloom Energy

Expenses: total \$425

- \$100 contribution to Downes Elementary School Bike to School Week events
- \$250 payment to Trek for Bike to Work raffle prize
- \$75 payment for Ride of Silence event

We now have a fund balance of \$947.76.

It was moved and seconded that the financial report be adopted; the motion was approved.

### **Old or new business**

#### ***Discussion on BikeNewark meeting minutes—approval process***

Members are generally OK with approving minutes the draft(s) of which is(are) circulated electronically. All agreed that it might be helpful to add action items list or include a condensed minutes summary as early as possible after a meeting has concluded. The strategy proposal that BikeNewark meeting minutes can be approved electronically after they are circulated for comments and corrections was moved, seconded, and approved.

#### ***Safety Committee plans***

Tom Price says they will consider South College Avenue bridge bike lane—safety ideas. Setup of meeting will be by poll; Helga will be included with committee members.

- ***Ride of Silence***

This event, scheduled for May 16, was cancelled this year due to bad weather. The bagpiper had to be paid a discounted fee.

### **Next meeting**

Bike Newark June meeting should be a more social event. The regular date for June would be Thursday, June 21, but we're looking at planning an outdoor event on Friday, June 22, with Newark Bike Project as a possible backup venue, if it rains. We'll need volunteers to help plan the event, which should include food and drink.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Bob McBride.