



BikeNewark.org • facebook.com/BikeNewark • @BikeNewark

July Meeting Minutes July 19, 2018

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

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

Partner liaison attendees:

Bike Delaware: John Bare

City of Newark: Joe Spadafino (Parks & Recreation)

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

University of Delaware: Ofc. Bryan Thomas (Police)

Guest: Ismat Shah (member-to-be)

City action related to infrastructure improvements

City Council voted in ordinance changes that will result in the following:

- The direction of Amstel Avenue between Orchard Road and South College Avenue will now be one way eastbound. This was done to effectively relocate the 15 parking spaces near Morris Library on South College Avenue to Amstel Avenue.
- The direction of travel on Margaret Street will now be one way northbound from the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Paper Mill Road. This change was one of the recommendations of the Cleveland Avenue Improvements Task Force, in preparation for DelDOT's pave and rehab of Cleveland Avenue.

Mark Deshon opened the floor for discussion on the Amstel Avenue change saying that in an ideal world the City of Newark would not need to try to maintain or relocate the 15 parking spaces. There are concerns about safety in that area, in that it is already a very congested block. The change would make it more difficult for bicyclists to move from central campus westbound, until the Delaware Avenue two-way protected bikeway is in place, creating a likelihood that bicyclists would simply ignore the one-way directional law.

Mark mentioned that he and John Morgan had email exchanges about the effect of this change; John feels strongly that it would be wise for the City to simply eliminate the parking rather than relocate it to this busy block, noting that the University's CFA parking is "never full."

Heather Dunigan wondered if the City had considered back-in angled parking on one side of the street as an alternative to parallel on each side. Helga Huntley (who had spoken on this during

public comment time at the City Council session on the traffic and parking flow saying that there are many bikes and pedestrians in this area) worries that, while getting rid of the parking spaces on South College Avenue is great, this change would further complicate traffic flow on this block for all modes. She wondered whether a contraflow lane for bicycles could be set up.

There is still time to talk to the City regarding alternative solutions to parking on both sides of that block of Amstel Avenue, and Mark said he will take up our concerns with Acting City Manager Tom Coleman.

With regard to Margaret Street, the Cleveland Avenue project is progressing. There is now a new traffic signal at the intersection of Creek View Lane and Paper Mill Road, which will become the outflow alternative for the change to Margaret Street.

Heather noted that the Cleveland Avenue paving and rehab project will now *precede* the Main Street and Elkton Road projects, which will begin late this year. Mark noted that as these and other planned projects near construction, BikeNewark member attention and public input will be required, particularly at City Council meetings, to ensure equal emphasis on bikeability.

Update on Delaware Avenue two-way protected bike lane project

Mark, Heather, and Ban Phommachanh had attended an project proposal–update meeting on July 18, hosted by JMT, the firm that is tackling the engineering plans for this project for DelDOT. Heather noted the highlights:

- The intersection at South College Avenue will be a raised intersection to simplify pedestrian movement and provide a traffic-calming feature.
- The section between Library Avenue and the Pomeroy Trail will also be raised and be adjacent to sidewalks and will include buffers with differing textures. (Other on-street treatment will include paint buffer with flexi-posts.)
- The two-way protected bike lane will feature specific bicycle traffic-control signals.

Construction start will be delayed at least until spring of 2020 due to delays in Main Street project. A public workshop on this project will be held on Aug 13 (at Newark Library or City Hall) 4-7 p.m. on the preliminary design plans ahead of final submission to DelDOT in October.

Newark Bikeway project update and discussion

Mark introduced a preliminary concept map as a handout for consideration by the group. Helga asked if this means that bikeway streets will require infrastructure changes. Mark said that some streets may be updated as “bike boulevards,” others may be unchanged, except for the addition of wayfinding signage. Consultation with UD on a portion of this proposed network will be needed on UD property.

Heather mentioned that the Library Avenue multi-use pathway is now partially complete; it is now complete between Rt. 4 (Chestnut Hill Road) and Delaware Avenue. She has petitioned to have an extension of this pathway created between Delaware Avenue and Main Street (past the Newark Free Library). She also said that DelDOT is working on the connection from Newark with Glasgow and points south in New Castle County. Mark had asked DelDOT’s Mark Luszcz if DelDOT thinks we are able to work on bikeway planning beyond the City of Newark corporate limits. He

said that it's fine with DelDOT but that we should coordinate with Bike Delaware and other appropriate stakeholder groups.

DelDOT-developed signage designs were also shared in the handout; DelDOT may likely use our proposed sign designs models for other state bikeway project signs. Bikeway signage content for a "central loop" (initial bikeway phase) are being developed this summer by some summer interns at City of Newark, and DelDOT will produce and pay for this signage. Funding will be needed, however, for future signage. As work progresses, BikeNewark will need to coordinate with City of Newark Parks & Recreation and DelDOT on bikeway signage. Heather, Helga, Karl Hassler, and Mark will work on this as an *ad hoc* project committee.

Editor's note: Attached to the minutes are images of DelDOT's proposed signage for the Newark Bikeway.

Scheduling fall semester Bike Central events, including 1743 Welcome Days

The University of Delaware's 1743 Welcome Days are August 25-26 (move-in weekend at UD). Last year, Bike Central events were scheduled back-to-back these first two days. UD Police Ofc. Bryan Thomas noted that students are very structured during these first few days as well as the UD Staff/Police and that neither group may have much time. He suggested we consider scheduling our events for another day. We might think about having events at another weekend time.

We will need to have a settled date(s) by the first week of August. We will also need 4-8 volunteers.

Editor's Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Ban Phommachanh of UD Parking made arrangements for BikeNewark to have its Bike Central set-up for 1743 Welcome Days on the east patio of the Perkins Student Center on Saturday, August 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Quick review of June Community Night

Mark reported that Heather (through WILMAPCO) had provided printing for the graphics displayed at the event. BikeNewark member Jordan Maguire has volunteered to serve as our new social media coordinator; Heather will help with him with his account set-up for Facebook. Jordan will add more to Instagram and Twitter feeds to interest the younger generation. Several other potential volunteers were introduced to BikeNewark during the rainy evening event. Potential partner organization members from Delaware Greenways and other groups also visited with members over pizza and drinks. Thirty-one persons (including BikeNewark members) attended the event, held at Handloff Park.

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 completion of the Apple Road buffered bikeway and pedestrian island project (between South Main Street and West Park Place) at an August City Council meeting. Members commented on how nice the on-street paint treatment looks.

Monthly financial report and adoption of report

As of July 19, 2018—

There were no new donations this month.

Expenses: total \$226.42

- \$162.50 for printing bicycle safety-tips flyers in multiple languages for use by the English Language Institute
- \$63.92 for food at last month's summer Community Night event

We now have a fund balance of \$559.

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

Procedure proposal for adoption of monthly meeting minutes

This was a follow-on action from opening discussion during our May meeting. Mark moved that minutes from the previous meeting be considered final and approved as distributed electronically after any corrections have been noted and subsequently made. This motion was seconded, and members voted to approve this new procedure. The May minutes were thus approved.

Mark asked that draft minutes be sent out electronically to members and partner liaisons within two weeks of the meeting for which the minutes were taken.

Old or new business

- ***New DelDOT Driver's Manual published***

John Bare noted that Bike Delaware members had rewritten the section of DelDOT Driver's Manual to reflect changes in the bicycling laws passed last year and in effect since Oct 2017. Since this manual is published only every several years it was important that the changes make it into the latest version.

- ***Community Day, September 16***

BikeNewark will need several volunteers to man our table with Newark Bike Project on the University Green.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will take place on August 16 at 4:30 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Bob McBride.

DRAFT - July 21, 2018



