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## September Meeting Minutes September 20, 2018

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

**Member attendees:** Mark Deshon (Chair), Karl Hassler, Barb Hughes, Dave Saunders, Helga Huntley, David Schultz, and Joe Sammon

**Partner liaison attendees:**

Newark Bike Project and WILMAPCO: Heather Dunigan

City of Newark: Joe Spadafino (Parks & Recreation) and Mike Fortner (Planning & Development)

University of Delaware: Ofc. Matt McNichol (Police)

Bike Delaware: John Bare

**Guests:** Jeff Riegner and Ricky Nietubicz

Chair Mark Deshon welcomed two new BikeNewark members—Dave Schultz (a UD staff member) and Joe Sammon (a UD sophomore).

### Project updates

- ***Status of “Pomeroy Connector” multi-use path***

Joe Spadafino reported that \$100K had been secured and that a \$40K grant had been submitted, which together would fully fund the project—a paved multi-use connector trail between Fairfield Crest and Creek Road. The bid process has been completed, the estimated cost coming in at \$110K, and the project is set for completion in spring of 2019. Karl Hassler asked about the some of the construction specifics. Joe said the project involves grading, stormwater management, and ADA compliance. He added that LED lighting would be added at a cost of \$10K.

- ***“Newark Bikeway”***

Karl, Helga Huntley, and Mark had met with Paul Moser (DelDOT), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), Tim Filasky (City of Newark), and Joe Spadafino (City of Newark) to begin discussing specifics of a Newark Bikeway and getting an update on signage progress for the “Central Loop” of this proposed low-stress network. Subsequently, Mark, Heather, and Paul met (with input from Helga) to begin further narrowing our focus and fine-tuning the draft map that we’d been using (latest draft on page 6). DelDOT has designed MUTCD-compliant signage for statewide use for such networks; Heather pointed out the sign facsimile on the map.

Karl, Helga, and Mark explained what's been going on with the Newark Bikeway proposal. We're considering using the downstate Junction & Breakwater Trail map as a model, but there are several things that yet need to be decided:

- How to incorporate suggested routes with other routes
- The nature and extent of signage needs
- How information is going to be promulgated to the community (e.g., map, kiosk, phone app)

Mark asked if there was anyone else present who might be interested in working on this with us. Barb Hughes said she might be.

- ***Status of request to DelDOT regarding South College Avenue***

Mark had spoken with Acting City Manager Tom Coleman about the status of the City's request to DelDOT that it take responsibility for a project to incorporate visioning plans and driving infrastructure improvements for the entire South College Avenue corridor (from I-95 to Main Street). Tom noted the following from his discussion with DelDOT:

- DelDOT likes the idea; however, not discussed were the I-95 to SR 4 section and the Delaware Avenue to Main Street block.
- Suggests that a TAP program is more appropriate for a particular aspect of the corridor improvements—namely, an off-road multi-use path on the east side of the road from the bridge north to West Park. However, there are three private landowners along that segment of the road, whom DelDOT suggested the city contact for permission.
- The City can do simple striping for bike lanes.
- On the bridge itself, DelDOT recommended narrowing to 10-ft. travel lanes, which would add an additional two feet to each of the bike lanes.
- DelDOT liked the idea of the City adding on-ground markings for southbound riders coming off the bridge to indicate a way to the train station by making a U-turn and heading under the bridge in the existing amenity. These markings could also be included in a TAP.
- South of the bridge, a road diet was discussed, but DelDOT has reservations about plans because STAR Campus full-buildout traffic levels are not yet known.

Discussion:

Heather questioned whether it is realistic to use TAP for this purpose. Karl focused in on the bridge over the railroad tracks and said how we are going to get people to/from [downtown and] Central to STAR Campus remains the key question. He asked if there's any way a new adjacent crossing could be built adjacent to the bridge on the west side. Mark pointed out the need for permission for such an addition from the railroads (Amtrak and Norfolk Southern). Jeff indicated that he didn't think that would be the main barrier but that he didn't think the current bridge superstructure would support it. Heather asked about the bridge replacement schedule. Jeff said that the current bridge was rebuilt in 1986, so it's not scheduled to be replaced any time soon. Barb made a suggestion that maybe separate bicycle signalization could be utilized on the current multi-use bridge adjacent to South College Avenue on the east side. Regarding build out, some said that the STAR Campus might not be fully built out for a long time (more than 10 years). Mark mentioned that about four years ago, UD official Alan Brangman had presented to us UD's then plan for the STAR Campus. At the time, having discussed what we wanted to see for optimum bicycle infrastructure, we had made suggestions to UD that, to our knowledge, have gone unheeded. Heather described what are in the current street plans as typical suburban road treatment.

Mark concluded that BikeNewark should continue to work with the City to press DelDOT for solutions along the entire length of South College Avenue. BikeNewark certainly wants to be included at the table with the players in this process.

### **Brief review of Bike Central and Community Day events**

Mark reported that we held Bike Central events during freshmen move-in day as part of 1743 Welcome Days on UD's campus and on September 12, to coincide with that evening's UD SafetyFest event. Each event was successful in its own right.

On move-in day, we had the help of BikeNewark's Lauri Webber, Brian Bahnson, Dave Schultz, and Mark Deshon, as well as the Newark Bike Project's Jamie Magee. We installed six sets of bike lights, handed out bike-registration information, and had conversations with several freshmen and their parents. This event was held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., but our experience tells us that we should change the timeframe next summer to 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

During our Sept. 12 Bike Central event, BikeNewark's Mark Deshon and Ismat Shah partnered with DelDOT's John Fiori and installed 20 sets of bike lights, gave away six bike helmets, inflated tires, handed out bike-registration info, and had good interaction with many students.

On Community Day (Sept. 16), we displayed info about DelDOT's current Newark road projects, the Bicycle Friendly Delaware Act, and our Newark Bikeway vision. We engaged the community in meaningful discussion. BikeNewark volunteers included Mark Deshon, Bob McBride, Barb Hughes, Joe Sammon, Dave Schultz, and Christine Schultz. Barb pointed out that we captured a whole sign-up sheet full of people interested in First Friday Rides. In addition, five individuals expressed interest in either membership in or volunteering for BikeNewark.

### **Plans for Bike Central and "Bike Lights Night" events**

Mark indicated that our next Bike Central event will be on Thursday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Delaware Avenue at The Green and that we have plenty of bike lights lefts (between UD Parking and DelDOT stock) to give away. Barb will be coordinating two Bike Lights Night events, each on a Thursday evening—October 11 and 25—at the intersection of North College Avenue and Main Street. Mark mentioned to Ofc. Matt McNichol our desire to partner with UD Police on these nighttime efforts, but Barb advised that a plain-clothes presence would work better in this instance. Barb will coordinate with UD Police.

### **Planning for November (or December) Community Night event**

Mark opened up discussion about when to host our next Community Night event. The consensus was that we should stay away from the holiday period. We ended up talking about planning an event for Friday, October 26, from 6:30–8:00 p.m. that would include food and drink. Mark made a couple of location suggestions—Newark Free Library and Wooden Wheels. Helga responded that she feels that it is not easy for bicyclists to get to the library; Mark then said he'd contact Wooden Wheels. Dave suggested that maybe we could get Wooden Wheels to give out 10% off coupons at the event to further entice people to participate in the event and return to their shop.

Dave asked about how BikeNewark raises funds. Mark described the hope that members would contribute something annually but indicated there was no requirement. He assured Dave that there was enough in our account to put on the event. Helga suggested that it would be a good idea if we wanted to do some serious fundraising to make it targeted for a certain project. Mark said signage for the Newark Bikeway might be a good match for such a campaign.

### **Opening of nominations for BikeNewark officers for December election**

Mark opened up the floor for nominations for the four board positions, saying that we'd like to have a slate completed by mid-November so that we can engage the membership in voting. He reminded those present that anyone could nominate a member, but that, ultimately, only members will vote in December.

*Chair* – Barb nominated Helga. Mark nominated Bob McBride. Helga indicated she's probably not in a good position right now to accept this nomination. There were no further nominations.

*Co-chair* – No one was nominated.

*Treasurer* – Mark nominated Karl Hassler. There were no further nominations.

*Secretary* – Mark mentioned that he had approached two women—Nancy Koller and Pam Green—about this position but need to check with them (since they are not currently members) about their willingness to serve if nominated and elected.

[Note: Those who are reading these minutes should consider whom they would like to nominate for each board position and submit that name to Mark Deshon via [bikenewark@gmail.com](mailto:bikenewark@gmail.com).]

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

The consensus was that we should suggest to that Mayor that at the first October Council meeting she highlight the Community Night (Oct. 26) and the Bike Lights Night events (Oct. 11 and 25).

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

As of September 20, 2018, there had been no new donations since the last meeting. There were expenses of \$19.98 for printing safety-info flyers and \$.13 in interest added. We now have a cash balance of \$523.64 with \$241.84 balance in our PayPal account.

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

### **Old or new business**

#### **• *Status of partner organization, the Downtown Newark Partnership***

Dan Weile had sent in a report on the meetings of the DNP's Strategic Planning Committee.

Mark indicated that the DNP, which has been one of our partner organizations, has been in the process of reorganizing and will become a nonprofit very soon. Mark read a few pertinent items from the committee's minutes. Below are Dan's submitted summary items:

- Mayor Sierer suggested...that this committee might become part of City Council. Joe [Charma]'s opinion is that the committee should retain its advisory role.
- The DNP wants it to become part of the Planning department.
- The reorganization of the "DNP" will involve the entire city; the "D" will likely be removed.

- Neither the boundary governed nor the design guidelines monitored are clear at this point.
  - It is not clear if coming before the [Strategic Planning] Committee will be mandatory in the future.
  - The changes go to Council for a vote on September 24.
  - Maryellen [Gray] seemed to think that, wherever this group lands after the reorganization, it will retain its current function and character.
  - Megan [McGuriman] suggested that the committee ask to be put under Planning and decide on the specific powers of the committee later, if the Planning department is amenable.
  - Joe made this a motion: Keep the function and territory of the Committee and ask to be attached to Planning.
  - [Jean] White asked if the meeting will remain public; Joe seemed to think so.
  - The motion passed unanimously. Megan mentioned that the Board meeting at which this will be discussed is on September 13.
- ***TrailFest – Sat., Sept. 22, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.***  
Mark reminded everyone that Delaware Greenways and Bike Delaware are looking for volunteers who can help at this event.
  - ***Newark Futures Workshop – Tues., Sept. 25, 6 p.m.***  
Mark reminded everyone about this workshop. Dave asked what this workshop was all about. Mark explained that this is the second of a series of community-engagement initiatives of UD and its Institute for Public Administration to help determine what’s important for the future of Newark. Results will help guide efforts to make changes where appropriate. Mark noted that attendance is free through registration only. Barb, Helga, and Heather will be attending.
  - ***Newark Community Sustainability Plan Community Workshop – Tues., Oct. 16, 4–6:30 p.m.***  
Mike Fortner introduced this announcement about a “drop in” public workshop to be held at the George Wilson Community Center on New London Road. Focus areas in the plan under consideration are:
    - Adapt to climate change impacts.
    - Advance clean energy and reduce fossil-fuel dependence.
    - Promote “green” and sustainable buildings, infrastructure, and land development.
    - Advance “clean” transportation.
    - Reduce the city’s waste footprint.
    - Reduce water usage.
    - Practice sustainable economic development.
    - Improve local food system.

### **Next meeting**

Our next meeting will take place on October 18 at 4:30 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Mark Deshon.

# Proposal DRAFT - Sept. 20, 2018

