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## October Meeting Minutes October 18, 2018

Mark Deshon called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

**Member attendees:** Mark Deshon (Chair), Bob McBride (Treasurer), Helga Huntley, Dave Saunders, Karl Hassler, Brian Bahnson

**Partner liaison attendees:**

Bike Delaware: John Bare

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

University of Delaware: Cpl. Patrick Ramone (UD Police) and Caitlin Olsen (UD Gov't Affairs)

DelDOT: Paul Moser

### **Brief report on Newark Futures Workshop, held on Sept. 25**

Mark Deshon asked those who attended this workshop to give their impressions of the event. Bob McBride, Heather Dunigan, and Helga Huntley agreed that it focused largely on UD and what it is planning, rather than on city organizations. Some thinking/discussion occurred among organizations that will be resident at UD Star Campus.

Transportation was not a great focus of this meeting. However, Heather said she had heard that there may have been some talk about making Orchard Road one way north between Avenue and Delaware Avenue and implement parking on that block. This plan would disrupt what is being planned as part of the Delaware Avenue two-way protected bikeway project, as the idea is to funnel bike traffic to and from the "cycletrack" via that block of Orchard Road by either adding bike lanes or sharrows in both directions.

BikeNewark should be playing a part in the new organization that succeeds Downtown Newark Partnership.

### **Bike Central and "Bike Lights Night" events on Oct. 25**

The October 11 Bike Lights Night event was cancelled due to poor weather. The upcoming Oct 25 event will be held as planned from 7:00-8:30 at North College Avenue and Main Street. Barb Hughes is organizing this effort. Contact her if you can help. The final Bike Central event of the calendar year will take place that morning from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. on Delaware Avenue at The Green.

## **Planning for Oct. 26 Community Night event**

Mark solicited input for what we need to supply in the way of visuals and volunteers. Needed/suggested are the following:

- Set-up help
- Visuals/maps and easels (Heather said WILMAPCO will provide easels)
- Donation box
- Video presentations (send photos to BikeNewark Gmail account for Bob to integrate into presentation) and information about other things we might be doing for the future

Specific suggestions about what we might show at the event:

- Static posters (Mark will have Heather output new ones needed)
- Delaware cycling laws changes (Mark will produce Bicycle Friendly Delaware Act brochure)
- Public road and transport projects (Mark will bring poster)
- List of BikeNewark accomplishments, etc. (Mark will provide)
- Membership poster with sign-in sheets attached
- An interactive map with string to show low-stress bike routes (Mark will work with Paul Moser and/or Heather to create)
- Pizza and drinks with plates and napkins (Bob agreed to secure these)

Note: Setup is at 6 p.m.

## **Nominations for BikeNewark officers for December election**

Bob McBride confirmed that is willing to serve as Chair, having been nominated at September's partnership meeting. Karl accepted Treasurer nomination, pending Bob's move to the Chair position. Helga Huntley was nominated as Co-Chair and confirmed that she would be willing to act in this capacity, if elected. Dave Saunders volunteered to serve as Secretary, if no one else can be identified who could fill this position. He was thus nominated.

List of nominated candidates to date:

- Chair – Bob McBride
- Co-Chair – Helga Huntley
- Treasurer – Karl Hassler
- Secretary – Dave Saunders

It was decided that online voting would accommodate the largest possible number of members. Barb Hughes and Mark Deshon have been working on a list of BikeNewark members to determine who should be solicited to vote online for these board positions. Mark stressed that nominations would formally close at our next partnership meeting (Nov. 15).

Related Discussion:

Some of the meeting attendance issues are probably due to early meeting times (4-5 p.m.), but this might change if we have later meetings. Heather reminded us that we might lose some partnership organization participants if we go outside of working hours. Video or telephone meetings are easy for members and possible at WILMAPCO conference room; this flexible tool could elicit better attendance. Paul Moser noted that meetings at a place other than official buildings might be a good change. This would make it seem less like a government organization

and more a community organization or club. We should take a poll on meeting times; Mark said he could integrate this into the voting procedure so that the participants can weigh in on meeting times as well.

In terms of publicity and promotion of BikeNewark, active members need to take some responsibility for publicity and social media to keep things up-to-date. Heather will assemble a listing of things that should be done routinely. This will help Jordan Maguire do his job as social media coordinator.

- First Friday Rides publicity
- Post-meeting materials
- Post photos and other public information
- Continuing blogs, email newsletters, links to other online resources about biking

### **Discussion about wrong-way riding on North College Avenue**

Mark shared his recent experiences, during which he had observed potentially dangerous bicycle movements along North College Avenue. He stopped at the Laird Campus bridge to discuss this with the UD Police officers stationed there. He asked if they or anyone in the law enforcement community is considering measures to help increase safety along that stretch to Laird Campus from Main Street.

Cpl. Patrick Ramone spoke for UD Police, saying that they are aware of the problem of bicycle and pedestrian interaction during the “scramble” phase of the North College Avenue signal at the Cleveland Ave intersection. They hope to avoid mishaps in this busy cross traffic area. But the street space is City of Newark jurisdiction. Generally, he said, the right of way for stop signs and lights has been well respected at this intersection.

Currently, there are no marked bike lanes on North College between Cleveland Avenue and Ray Street, which encourages wrong-way riding. Pedestrians waiting with bikes traveling properly may tangle with wrong-way traveling bicyclists on the upper part of the block. Then, there are cars in the mix. It is unclear why no bike lanes are painted on this block. We may need to contact the City of Newark to see if there are plans for implementation in the future. Mark said he’s likewise concerned about wrong-way riding and the potential for bike-on-bike conflicts along the block between Cleveland Avenue and Main Street.

Mark asked if any study is being done with respect to the prohibition of bicycle travel on the Laird Campus bridge. Cpl. Ramone says that, to his knowledge, UD has not taken any data on compliance to UD policy with regard to bicyclists dismounting and walking across the bridge.

Signage and education are probably the best ways to help with these issues.

Paul added that bike lanes do fall into an awkward legal realm as part of the roadway. Since bike lanes often appear/disappear, it becomes even more problematic. He said that DelDOT has placed comments about striping and designations in its pending rule changes.

### **Finance report and adoption of report**

Bob reported that no changes have occurred since last month’s report. There is a positive fund balance of \$765.38, which includes the PayPal account balance. Mark made a motion to adopt the

report as given. It was seconded, and the report was subsequently approved.

### **Old or new business**

- ***Transportation Improvement District Committee***

The City of Newark is soliciting for volunteers for a Transportation Improvement District committee. Please contact your City Council representative to volunteer for this.

- ***Newark Partnership Organizing Committee***

The fledgling Newark Partnership (which will succeed the Downtown Newark Partnership) needs volunteers to help this new nonprofit organize. Contact the City of Newark to find out more. Those interested in helping can probably also contact Dan Rich at drich@udel.edu.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will take place on November 15 at 4:30 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Bob McBride and Mark Deshon.