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January Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2019

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Member attendees: Bob McBride (Chair), Helga Huntley (Co-Chair), Karl Hassler (Treasurer), Dave Saunders (Secretary)

Partner liaison attendees:

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

City of Newark: Mike Fortner (Planning and Development)

University of Delaware: Ban Phommachanh (Parking)

Agenda Item: Engineering Committee meeting Report

Helga summarized the meeting on Newark Bikeways signage. “Newark Bikeways” (plural) was agreed as the overarching name of the route system, and “route” was the chosen term for the branch lines emanating from the “Central Loop” (this name also confirmed). Signs will not be initially mounted on the other routes but their start points on the central loop will be signed including the word “future” temporarily (sticker on sign), until the route is signed. The routes radiating from the central loop are identified with compass directions, North, Northeast, etc. It was agreed to have our Central Loop signage guidance ready by the end of February, to send to DelDOT sign shop. Expect an Engineering Committee meeting for in early February for this matter.

Dave expressed a desire to further examine the radial route naming/signing scheme, observing that trails and transportation lines (bus, tram, subway, etc.) often use terminus names, even when they are insignificant, for clear identification including of direction of travel on the route. Also letter or number IDs for routes provide for simplicity of way-following signage with more detailed information at kiosks and online. Ban noted that many people want a minimum of writing on signs. We might not be able to use colors but we can use words.

Mike was reminded of signage issues for STAR Campus parking lot, argued for simplicity there.

Helga brought up way-finding signage on campus (not DelDOT or City control) for Newark Bikeways.

Ban: On UD campus there is no central plan to add signs for bikeways, and it is the province of several departments. UDPD should be the point organization inside UD to work with bikeways. Housing and residence life could be contacted about this.

Bob: UD’s new bicycle coordinator (if the position is authorized and filled) could be involved.

Helga: We agree then to start with on-road signage of Central Loop, then coordinate with UD for on-campus signage and information dissemination. This was the consensus.

Agenda Item: Continued Discussion of BikeNewark Goals for 2019

City Parking Regulations Updates: Ban has a UD goal for work this year on bike racks and shelters. UD is debating styles. A shelter by athletic area/parking is in discussion. Bike removal in winter session is currently not done due to complaint(s). Storage over winter costs \$10.

Helga: City traffic codes could be more bicycle-friendly. Definition of bike lane? A traffic lane, not a road shoulder.

Orchard Rd. mini-circles project status? Heather: no one pushing the idea currently.

Helga: Safe Routes to School project is likely to get some City funding.

City had been willing to modify Casho Mill Rd; perhaps this should be expanded to other schools.

Heather: Expand to Park Place Elementary School? and others?

Consensus: this could go on goals if someone steps up to lead the effort.

Regarding Housing Planning for the City: How many bike parking areas are required for a development under existing regulations? What can we do to enhance this?

A goal: Keeping track of pedestrian/bike improvements already in progress, DelDOT and City of Newark.

Agenda item: Community engagement/outreach planning

Films: The film "Bicycle Revolution" from a California group that Mark has mentioned was discussed. Old movie "Breaking Away" came up in discussion. Helga: A film showing could coordinate with the environmental film festival. Student Movie Night on Harrington Beach/Green was mentioned.

No clear way to a public showing emerged.

Social Media posting of agendas, notices: Jordan has volunteered to do this in coordination with Mark but may not be available after this spring.

Mike reminded that Bike to Work Day will be May 17th. It will be a City event, hopefully funded by Parks and Recreation.

Heather: LAB class could be done by a Newark/BikeNewark partnership, one day or two. (Bob: expensive.)

Ban initiated a discussion of business involvement with safety checks. We could get business to sponsor a bike safety check at the business location, e.g., at Dunkin Donuts porch on Main St. or in front of the 5 and 10.

There was discussion of a fundraiser similar to UDance. Teams from student groups do a track loop endurance competition (Le Mans style).

Agenda Item: Treasurer's report

Transition to Karl is in the works. Some sums do not agree. Look for a refined report next month. LAB membership. An invoice is being generated. Our liability insurance is through LAB, total is about \$400.

Agenda Item: Old or new business

Heather: resurrecting UD bike days could be revisited ... to reflect discussion in context of bike month in the fall. UD Decision Days are March 2, April 13, April 27. Kelly Ball (kball@udel.edu) is a contact person for decision days, invites BikeNewark participation.

Karl: Could add activities to Bike to Work Day (bike check, commuting info lunch). Heather: keep in mind full week (Bike to Work Week) or month (bike month—May) for such coordinated activities.

Heather: Silent memorial ride was cancelled due to weather last year. Keep in mind for 2019.

Further remarks and suggestions:

Newark Bike Project has been asked to coordinate with Newark Parks and Rec for bike events.

Have a safe riding obstacle course for younger students.

UD students are actually bringing fewer bikes to campus than in past years.

Goals for increasing ride safely might be better served.

Bike Central should be more focused on UDPD rather than parking.

Sponsorship for Events might include UD campus groups.

Recreation and Athletics Dept. at UD might be contacted.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will take place on February 21, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. at WILMAPCO.

Reminder: At WILMAPCO, park in visitor spots (others will be ticketed)

Meeting was adjourned around 5:45 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Dave Saunders.