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March Meeting Minutes

March 21, 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), Mark Deshon, Karen Rosenberg, Barbara Hughes

Partner liaison attendees:

Bike Delaware: John Bare

City of Newark: Polly Sierer (Mayor), Tim Filasky (Public Works & Water Resources), Joe Spadafino (Parks & Recreation),

University of Delaware: Michael Slater (Police), Bill Knightly (Police), Will Maguire (Employee Health and Wellbeing), Adam Jines (Recreation), Ban Phommachanh (Parking)

DelDOT: Paul Moser, Chip Kneavel

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

Guest: Adam Crosby (Delaware Greenways)

Safe Routes to School Program: At the initiative of City Councilman Mark Morehead, more extensive plans for safe routes to Downes Elementary School are being planned. Plans include more extensive traffic-calming features on Casho Mill Road between Church Road and Barksdale Road, with refuge islands at each intersection as well as in front of the school as previously planned. Buffered bike lanes remain in the plan. The greater cost is to be funded with contributions from the federal grant, DelDOT and City of Newark. Design is just reaching the point of public input for the changes. BikeNewark can help support by doing publicity for a public workshop of the changes sponsored by the City and DelDOT.

A discussion ensued with respect to removing stairs on the north sidewalk in front of Downes so as to be ADA compliant. It was agreed that this be brought up with Councilman Morehead, but, for several reasons, removing the stairs as a separate project seems more feasible.

UD Exercise promotion, UD Bike Days, BN Fun Ride: Adam Jines reported on the Exercise is Medicine (EIM) program for promoting healthy lifestyles. UD wants to provide exercise options to students who may not go to gym. Participation in First Friday Rides is an option as is promoting riding routes in and around Newark.

It was proposed to have UD Bike Days again this fall (last held in 2017). The BikeNewark Fun Ride on Saturday, September 7, can be run in conjunction with this. Mark Deshon offered to head

up a group to explore this with UD and City of Newark staff, coordinating with Newark Police Department. There are some leftover T-shirts from 2017, fortunately not dated. The Newark Partnership Event Committee may be interested in sponsoring and helping. Polly Sierer is interested in helping with fundraising and needs to get information to potential sponsors quickly (mid April).

Barb Hughes noted that the First Friday Rides are starting at 6 p.m. (except for the September ride, which will be folded into the Fun Ride).

Mark suggested that an event organization committee be formed to begin planning for how to merge all these ideas and interests into one effort. He volunteered to get a group together, which would include Polly, Barb, Joe Sammon (all of BikeNewark), Adam Jines and Beth Finkle (UD), and representatives from UDPD and Newark PD, as well as City of Newark Parks & Recreation.

Main Street Construction and Delaware Avenue parking:

Tim Filasky noted that Main street construction will take up to 100 parking spots at a time. Start is Apr 1 for the pave and rehab project. A comprehensive plan will go to City Council at an April 29 meeting to show the new parking proposal. A special City Council meeting is planned for April 29 to finalize plans. Forty off-road spots will replace two removed houses currently owned by UD. On a portion of Delaware Avenue, lanes would shift and the bike lane be removed to provide parking. Meters or a kiosk-pay system are under consideration. Two major points were made in discussion: (1) bike access is all the more important and beneficial during construction when decreased motor vehicle flow is desirable, and (2) once temporary Delaware Avenue parking is established and a revenue stream created, the City will be tempted to make it permanent, which would effectively nullify the two-way protected bike-lane plan and destroy the entire concept of a Central Loop. Helga agreed to head up a unified voice of BikeNewark to address these concerns.

Newark Bikeways: The Engineering committee meeting on March 19 went well, and Central Loop signage has been decided. Perhaps the Central Loop project can be presented to City Council at its May meeting. We hope that temporary Delaware venue parking will not affect this project in the long run. We generally agreed to continue with the installation of the DelDOT funded signs for most of the central loop. Mark Luszcz had indicated that the soonest time this would happen would be later this fall.

The Newark Partnership Nonprofit Committee is planning a survey of nonprofits of the services provided. BN can put in our programs: First Friday Rides, Fun Ride, Bike Central. It was also noted that nonprofits can have a link on the Newark Partnership website and a calendar.

Adam Crosby reported on the **Future Trails of Northern Delaware Coalition**. A coalition of 24 groups is working on trails. Highlighted projects include Governor Prince and the Brandywine Heritage Trail. Developers' involvement is a positive. The company working on the Boxwood site owns land that would connect several trails. As of now, 70% of greenway trail is complete.

John Bare solicited volunteers to help run the May 2 **Walkable Bikeable Delaware Summit**. BikeNewark can set up a table and will have a half page ad in the program. Bob, Mark, Barb, and Dave volunteered.

Bike to Work Day: Arrangement for a political leader (e.g., Governor) to provide the keynote is in the works. The group felt that the Bicycle Friendly Community Leader Award should go to Mark Deshon.

Treasurer's report: \$0.02 interest income, \$53.99 expense this period. Current balance: \$979.70. A grant from White Clay Bicycle Club is anticipated.

Minutes were taken by Dave Saunders,