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June Meeting Minutes June 18, 2020 (Virtual Meeting)

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Member attendees: Bob McBride (Chair), Helga Huntley (Vice-Chair), Dave Saunders (Secretary), and Mark Deshon

Partner liaison attendees:

City of Newark: Ofc. Greg D’Elia (Police), Ofc. Morgan Fountain (Police), Ofc. Kelsey O’Donnell (Police)

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan

Main Street Rehab Project Completion:

Greenbacked sharrows have been installed on East Main Street but are not all complete yet. Paul Moser and Mark Deshon worked with Tom Coleman to ensure that this was done as originally planned. Mark will contact Tim Filasky to propose sign(s) indicating “bike use full lane” near the eastern end of East Main.

Bob McBride and Mark may be able to make a video with borrowed GoPro camera. Helga and her kids might make participate to make it more watchable and emphasize Main Street’s enhanced bike-friendliness. Newark Police Department suggestions were to film early Sunday morning for light traffic and to make sure to emphasize that cyclists need to follow all of the rules—no sidewalk riding and riding in the correct direction (westbound) on Main Street.

A “Welcome Back to Main Street” event is planned for June 25 from 4-9 p.m. The event will extend the restaurants to the streetscape for enhanced dining that evening. Outside of a closing of East Main Street to all traffic from Chapel Street to South College Avenue, there will be no special bike access or activities for this event due to its commercial restaurant emphasis. Helga Huntley suggested that there be future Main Street events that would close down Main Street but make it specifically bicycle accessible, like is done in Europe or other college towns in this country.

Newark Bikeways Signage Project Update:

Mark indicated that he had submitted the plans for phase-2 wayfinding signage to Tim Filasky. Tim replied that the City staff would look them over and then price out a vendor for producing the signs; however, he cautioned that due to staffing cuts this process might incur delay.

BikeNewark Membership Changes:

A system for joining and paying dues with PayPal is in place and on the website. Subsequently, new members are invited to fill out the online Correspondence Form. Transitionally, new members are recorded via the PayPal record. Marketing membership efforts are now appropriate and should be pursued.

City Council Candidates Survey Ahead of the Election:

Mark has contacted the candidates, and survey responses will appear on the BikeNewark website on or around July 1.

Planning for Future Events:

Bike to Work Day is tentatively planned for September 22, 2020. There was a discussion of how a properly socially-distanced event might be accomplished:

- Mike should confirm with UD’s Caitlin Olsen if a campus space is possible.
- Use coupons instead of handing out prizes/food.
- Reduce the numbers of people who actually gather at the same time.
- Have a sign-in station with coupons and other things—a “grab ’n’ go” approach.
- Send out video on a live-streaming channel.
- A “ride by” approach may be used.

Possible co-sponsoring groups include the Air Quality Partnership of Delaware, the UD Sustainability Committee (Michelle Bennett), and RideShare Delaware.

The City Department of Parks & Recreation may organize a “decorate your yard” event. BikeNewark may help plan a biking route for it. Bob McBride will follow up.

New or Old Business:

There was discussion of thoughts on a Newark bikeshare project and on the Newark Police Department officers’ mountain-bike certification.

Adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Minutes by David Saunders