

# **Bike Delaware General Meeting Minutes**

**February 2, 2010**

**Called to Order: 6:15 PM**

Present

Frank Warnock—Publicity Chair  
Carol Ireland—Treasurer  
Maria Wilburn—Secretary  
J.D. Watson  
John Boyle  
Heather Dunigan  
Anthony Aglio  
Phil Woods  
John McCormick  
David Bennett  
John Bare  
Sally Humphrey  
Carol Ireland  
Stephen Bertolini

## **Introduction**

- New officers listed:
  - President—Drew Knox
  - Vice President—Caroline Honse
  - Publicity Chair—Frank Warnock
  - Treasurer—Carol Ireland
  - Secretary—Maria Wilburn
- Elections begin at next year's annual meeting
- Officers appointed this year by incorporation attorney
  
- All in attendance introduced themselves

## **2009 Year in Review**

- Facility and Guideline Successes
  - Signing of Complete Streets Executive Order
  - First Bike Summit registered 280 participants
  - Overview of facility successes
    - Small successes have been easy to obtain with a few brief contacts
    - These include minor maintenance items
  - Action items
    - Total success in 2 out of 7 items
    - Possible or partial successes in 1 more, waiting for confirmation
    - Pork chops design guide memorandum is a success, but only acts as a tool. Advocates must remain vigilant and catch DelDOT's mistakes
    - Summarized AT bill

- Cyclists have displayed good turnout at DelDOT and WILMAPCO public workshops
  - General rule of thumb is: keep on top of DelDOT; projects easily fall through the cracks
    - May need to create committees to stay on top of each issue
- Status of Bike Delaware's 2009 Goals
  - St. Georges Bridge Bike Lanes
    - Dozens of letters sent to DelDOT and Army Corp.
    - Approaching lanes of travel merge into one with markings on the shoulder to designate bike lane
    - No lane markings on the bridge; delineated only by a solid white line
    - Conversion will occur, but Anthony will ask for more markings and wider lane striping
  - 3-ft. Passing Law
    - Passed in Senate
    - Hung up in House by complaints of some Police Troops
    - Facing similar hold-ups in other states
    - Some states have passed it and found it to be successful, so there are backing statistics we can use
    - Purpose of law is not enforcement, but to place burden of the law on the driver to prove that an incident was the fault of the cyclist.
  - Complete Streets Executive Order follow-up
    - Has been signed, but not officially publicized (no public signing)
    - Fine tweaking has gone back and forth
    - Division heads are to be approached soon about their roles in and interpretations of the Executive Order.
    - Anthony will have the opportunity to critique the responses of division heads.
- Our Progress as an organization
  - Summarized progress on launching a website, obtaining promotional materials, and gaining membership

### **Incorporation**

- Officially incorporated as of today as Bike Delaware, Incorporated
- Obtained pro-bono help from Glen Trudel
- Illegal for a 501(c)3 organization to state intent for lobbying and political influence.
- Cost was \$250; Carol will receive invoice within a month
- Next step is to file for 501(c)3 status.
- 501(c)3 filing will run \$850, but may be able to file online for about \$250 with an experimental system.
  - May take until next year before this is available.
  - Do the homework and start putting together papers before making the decision: get it done traditionally, or wait for the online filing option
- Officers will have to meet and make this decision
- Sally will write a news item for the website on incorporation

### **Keynote Speech: Bicycle Advocacy in Philadelphia, by John Boyle**

- Programming is half of the BCGP budget—very important
- Main goal of presentation is to focus on advocacy
- BCGP—early timeline
  - Began in 1972
  - took off in 1990
    - After 18 years of meeting at 30<sup>th</sup> street station, finally obtained office space
  - First full-time paid employee in 1993
  - two members still active since conception
  - about 40% membership from Philly, about 10 members in DE
- Commuter Race in 1972
  - Cyclist came in second place after a reporter for the *Bulletin*
- Early advocacy and influence
  - Proposed conversion of a few sidewalks to MUP's
  - Fought off several bike bans
  - Inverted U-racks invented by John Dalling of BCGP (no patent)
  - PennDOT, after closing B Bridge, finally opened it to cyclists at start of Valley Forge trail
  - Conception of city-wide bicycle network made Philadelphia a bicycle friendly city in 1996.
- 1990 Die-In
  - PennDOT expanded Walnut St. Bridge to 4 lanes with no shoulders
  - At the opening ceremonies, 30 cyclists “died” at the ribbon cutting
  - Made big news!
  - Took 14 years to get the bike lanes from there, but BCGP gained publicity.
- Recent successes
  - Access on Septa and Patco speed lines
  - 210 miles of lanes; probably 2/3 constructed in the 1990's
    - New challenge is to connect disjointed lanes
  - At least 3500 bike racks installed by the city
    - Removal of parking meter heads created a near-crisis atmosphere that spurred plans to install parking meter/bike rack structures (to be installed shortly)
  - Buffered bike lanes on Spruce and Pine St's (2 of Philly's main throughways)
    - Study of traffic capacity in center city revealed the capacity for bike lanes
    - Bicycle traffic has doubled since the bike lane installations
    - Serve as major East-West corridor
  - Stop bars will be moved back at some intersections
  - Cyclists practically block intersections at rush-hour; prevent right and left turns
- Cultivating a Bike Culture in Philadelphia
  - 600 per hour over the Schuylkill at rush hour; bicycling is up 12% annually since 1990; doubled between 2005 and 2008
  - Neighborhood Bike Works expansion
  - Bike Philly (3000 participants), Bike Polo, Kinetic Sculpture Derby, Naked Bike Ride
  - Enough cyclists in the whole community to push back many of the negative publicity and newspaper comments
- 2-5 cyclist fatalities per year; poorly reported (in news); several severe injuries

- Be ready to fight back negative comments with “we have the education programs designed and ready to go...just give us money and we’ll help you solve the problem.”
- Tips and strategies for Delaware
  - Pushing for an issue with all candidates in an election does not go against IRS regulations
  - Hold elected officials to promises
  - Always expect incremental improvements until a tipping point is reached
  - Highest potential for increasing ridership is in cities and towns
    - Focus on replacing short automobile trips with bicycle trips in urban areas
    - Draft Bicycle-Pedestrian plans and approach DelDOT for implementation
  - Identify good candidates for “Road Diets”
    - Road diets calm traffic, create more well-defined spaces, and avoid spaces that encourage dangerous and inappropriate maneuvers
    - Do not impede automobile traffic, and at times encourage flow
  - Educate the public on good practices and the law; many are ill-informed
  - Bike Boulevards and sharrows (e.g., Ocean City, NJ)
  - Avoid dooring issues (Spruce St. in Philadelphia is a great example)
    - Reverse-angle parking eliminates door zone and blind spots
  - Solutions for unincorporated areas
    - Connected paths, enhanced bike lanes, and transit integration
    - Corporate Bicycle User Groups (BUG’s) advocate for bike parking, showers, and other corporate benefits for cycling employees
  - Education and enforcement
    - Updating state laws according to Uniform Vehicle Code generally benefits cyclists
    - Educating law enforcement
    - Reach out to non-English media and other “Invisible Cyclists” groups to pull the whole community onto the scene

### **Status Report**

- 132 members on the list serve (unique names, not including multiple email addresses)
- Liaisons in 22 different organizations
- Carol briefed the group on the treasury
  - Some delays in obtaining income through BCGP-sponsored donations
  - Starting balance in 2010 was \$1095.30
- Current balance (as of Feb 2) is \$1414.38
- Year-end fundraising drive brought 6 or 7 donations
- Applied for a grant asking for \$15,000 in matching funds
  - Will find out at the end of March whether intent was accepted and we can move on to a full application
  - If nothing more is gained, it will force the thought process of how to raise more funds
  - Can reapply every 6 months
  - A retiree with fundraising experience would be ideal to take the lead

### **New Business**

- National Bike Summit representatives
  - Frank and James will both attend all three days
  - Bike Delaware should be able to cover one registration and White Clay the other
  - May have as many as 6 representatives from Delaware alone at lobbying day.
  - Try to get Mike Tyler on board; Anthony will contact him.
- Carol made a motion to support one registration (split two ways) alone, or both with help of WCBC
  - Frank seconded the motion
  - All voted in favor
- 2010 Delaware Bike Summit
  - May 21 in conjunction (day before) with the Wilmington Grand Prix
  - Holding the summit in Wilmington provides leverage for pressuring mayor's office
    - DBC and WILMAPCO have been placing pressure on Wilmington to begin implementing the Wilmington Bike Plan
    - Wilmington administration has agreed to set up a committee including civilians and police officers alike
  - Panel discussion on bicycle-friendly communities, including Wilmington, Newark, etc.;
  - State-level discussion as well
  - Bicycles as a tool for social change
- Delaware Bike Summit roundtable discussion led by Bike Delaware
  - In the interest of Bike DE to lead the discussion to gain exposure and have input
  - Require volunteers to help lead the discussion
- Cards were distributed to various volunteers to be brought to bike and outdoors shops around the state
  - Other hot spots could include health centers, fitness clubs, other outdoor shops
- John McCormick will make sure that WCBC members check the number of Bike DE cards left when they distribute their monthly *Tailwind*.
- Bike Delaware needs more representation from Kent County
  - Send a liaison to the Kent County MPO planning committee
  - Invite someone from Kent Co. MPO to join Bike Delaware.
  - Send someone to a workshop to make the introduction
- Open discussion was not realized
  - Ask for feedback online
  - Encourage attendance for an open discussion at the next meeting
- Monthly meetings?
  - Too much commitment for many
  - Form subcommittees
  - Continue to have monthly exec committee meetings
  - Keep bimonthly schedule for now.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 PM**

**Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 6 PM**