

# **Bike Delaware General Meeting Minutes**

**01 December, 2009**

**Called to Order: 6:05 PM**

Present

Frank Warnock—President  
Drew Knox—Vice President  
Carol Ireland—Treasurer  
Maria Wilburn—Secretary  
Caroline Honse—At Large  
Heather Dunigan—WILMAPCO  
John Boyle—Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia  
Katherine Kitzhener  
James Wilson  
Trevor Booz

- ◆ 06 October meeting minutes reviewed and approved

## **President's Report**

- Newark Bicycle Committee
  - Good attendance at the last meeting
  - Newark seriously going for “Bike Friendly City” status
  - Subcommittees formed
    - ◆ Include infrastructure, educations, enforcement, parking, encouragement (outreach, etc)
    - ◆ Frank leads the encouragement subcommittee
  - Encouragement subcommittee: project 1 is to design a bike sharing program
    - ◆ Will visit Pottstown, PA for ideas
    - ◆ Leave a tangible item such as an ID or some money
    - ◆ Pottstown program has been a success with no thefts so far
    - ◆ Pick up and drop off at bike shops; in a small town this is not problematic
  - Recent NBC success: signs on Main St sidewalks now read “No Bicycling on Sidewalks,” instead of “No Bicycles on Sidewalks.”
- Newark Nite and Newark Community Day as important events to table
  - Frank plans to target these events, especially Newark Community Day
  - Newark Community Day attracts more interested in community involvement
  - Possibly partner with DE Greenways, DBC, NBC, and the Tailspinners
  - Seek sponsors to provide bikes for people to take for test rides, to draw attention
    - ◆ EMS and Performance seem receptive to helping out
  - Dates: Newark Nite expected Sat., June 5; Community Day is Sun., Sept. 3
- 10 to 15 website hits per day

## **Treasurer's Report**

- Waiting for \$25 from BCGP
- Carol drafted a letter to be sent to the list in a year-end fundraising campaign
- The fundraising letter will include
  - A mention of the Delaware Bike Summit and Bike DE support of the event
  - A list of other tasks and accomplishments that serve the whole biking community
  - The goal of maintaining free membership
- Fundraising letter will initially be sent to the Bike DE list-server.

- May be reworded later and sent to other groups (constituent organizations?)
- Other possibilities for raising funds
  - Approach local bike shops for matched funds
  - Promote tangible results of expenditures or allow groups to sponsor specific projects

### **WILMAPCO Update**

- Elkton, Maryland is kicking off its first bike plan
  - Need cyclists to be involved, including Newark residents
  - Several planning meetings will be open to the public in the near future

### **DBC Update**

- Complete Streets Policy expected to be signed into order shortly
- Concerns raised by Bike DE members regarding compliance with the new Pedestrian Refuge Island regulations
  - Regulation (at least 4 ft between Island and lane of travel) implemented as of August
  - Many of the stimulus projects will have already been designed
  - Concerned cyclists may contact DelDOT with specific requests
- Carolann Wicks on board with the C&D Canal crossing

### **Active Transportation lobbying effort**

- The following met with Paul Schmid and Bonnie Wu of Carper's office, and Jim Catella of Castle's office regarding the Active Community Transportation Act of 2009:
  - Bill Osbourne of Transportation Management Association, Delaware
  - James Wilson of Bike DE
  - Marianne Fowler and Kevin Mills of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
  - Jonathan Husband of NCCo
  - Bobbie Geier of DelDOT
  - David Blankenship of Wilmington
- Paul Schmidt appeared engaged; enthusiasm of Castle's office difficult to judge.
- Review of the initiative
  - Pilot Program funded several communities with \$25 million to improve non-motorized transportation facilities
  - RTC is lobbying for a permanent program that would award up to \$50 million each over a few years to a few dozen more communities
  - The draft of a bill procuring these funds is to be introduced by Rep. Blumenauer of Oregon.
  - The current lobbying goal is to get co-sponsors, particularly DE politicians, for the bill
- Bike DE involvement
  - One of the top partner organizations in the lobbying effort
  - Plan to campaign as for the St. George's crossing, but have limited time
  - With the go-ahead from RTC
    - ◆ Bike DE will publicize the lobbying effort on the list-serve and ask members to write Castle
    - ◆ Heather will send out a letter on behalf of all partner organizations

### **National Bike Summit**

- Bike DE hopes to send 1 or 2 representatives on the current budget
  - Enough to send one on what's presently in the bank
- Possible representatives
  - Drew Knox (will be president at the time)
  - Carol Ireland

- Frank Warnock
- The individuals attending will register themselves and be reimbursed
  - Maria will provide them with Bike DE's LAB membership number
- Will decide on a representative by January 20 (to secure early bird discount)

### **Old/New Business**

- Increasing member involvement and bringing revenues
  - Set financial goals
  - Secure matching grants?
  - State the financial goal and what will be done with the money to draw more donations (e.g., hire an executive director)
  - Invite speakers to draw more attendance at meetings
  - Include reports on topics of interest to the public
  - Hook the blog to the website to gain visibility among facebook users and bloggers
- Goal for the annual meeting in February
  - Invite a speaker—possibly John Boyle will speak on how BCGP got off the ground and what they do now
  - Focus on the theme of how to get more involvement and more donations
  - Publicize the meeting ahead of time and draw more attendance
- News from Philadelphia (BCGP)
  - Proposed bike registration would require all riders 12 years and older to register their bikes
  - Controversial definition of a vehicle depends on braking ability
  - PA bike laws are more updated than Phila. laws and are based on newer Uniform Vehicle Codes
  - Philadelphia has adopted pedi-cab regulations that could be appropriate for Newark as well
  - New, radical group created on facebook—the Philadelphia Bike Insurrection
    - ◆ Picked up 984 members in less than 2 weeks
    - ◆ Has mobilized the Philadelphia bike messengers union

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:05 PM**

**Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2009; time 6 PM**