

May 14, 2013 Bike Delaware Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Carol Ireland

President Drew Knox called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. The meeting was held at the Padi restaurant in Hockessin. In attendance were Board members Drew Knox, John Bare, Bill Osborne and Carol Ireland, Executive Director James Wilson and member Bob Ruddy. John Hollis, Doug Tynan and Chris Zorger were unable to attend.

The April meeting minutes were approved as written. As a followup item from that meeting, Bill and John B. will finalize a draft of the "Board Responsibilities" that James first submitted for discussion in April.

To give us further information regarding fundraising, it was suggested that Mary Hopkins, a lawyer who used to work with the Delaware Community Fund, be invited to a special meeting of the board. (Mary is the wife of avid cyclist Mark Hopkins, a friend of John Bare).

Bill Osborne gave a brief Treasurer's Report. Our assets are \$7,882 as of 4/30/13. The Walkable Bikeable Delaware Summit has receivables from sponsors that, when paid, will put us in the black for the Summit. The Summit had 16 sponsors with Nemours as the top donor.

The Board discussed key learnings from the May 1 Summit. There was no benefit to combining the Legislators Ride and Summit -- only two people stayed after the ride for the Summit. The morning session, especially Dr. Furth's talk, was well attended. The announcement of Delaware's new ranking of 5th in the nation for bike friendliness was orchestrated very well, thanks to John Bare. John Hollis' role was also acknowledged, in planning for the Summit as well as introducing the morning speakers and keeping speakers on schedule. The audience was greatly diminished in the afternoon. Sussex Cyclists had a great turnout, with at least 16 people registered for the Summit in Sen. Lopez' district.

Carol reported making a good start in connecting legislators to bike advocates. Three or four meetings were held between legislators and Summit participants. Much background information was shared with many Summit participants, although no additional face-to-face meetings took place. Next time we can leverage the foundation we've built this year.

Board thanked James and John Hollis for all their work pulling off a very successful summit. John contributed particularly in lining up speakers Gov. Markell, Sec. Landgraf, and Dan Short; and securing sponsorships from several organizations, including Sussex Outdoors paying for the t-shirts.

There was a lot of overlap in speakers and messages between the 2012 and 2013 Summits. Perhaps the next summit could focus on the legislative process for setting the budget, and on the process DelDOT uses to fund and manage bike/ped related projects. More efforts could be made to connect legislators with bicyclists and bike advocates, and a bike ride around Dover could be included.

The discussion also covered the overlaps and differences between the Delaware Bike Summit and the Walkable Bikeable Delaware Summit. The next DE Bike Summit is planned for Mar.-Apr. 2014, probably in Newark. No one could articulate what the goal(s) of that summit are. James and Bill will explore the pros and cons of having the two different summits with DelDOT, WILMAPCO and Kent MPO.

It was suggested that if the Summit is held again, it should be called Bikeable Walkable Delaware next year.

Work has progressed with the 501c3 application. Carol will finalize the proposed bylaws amendments for a vote at the next meeting.

It was decided that Drew Knox will proceed with a Bike DE jersey order from the Chinese company he has had some experience with. The design will cost \$400 and 50 jerseys (at \$16 each) will be ordered, for sale to bike shops and individuals. Decisions need to be made regarding whether and how to combine membership dues with jersey sales.

The Board Development Committee reported on some of their recent work. The current board membership lacks diversity of age, sex, ethnicity and geography. Bill Osborne suggests that we consider term limits to keep new people coming in. Bob Ruddy was nominated and voted to the Board. At the next meeting a proposal on terms and the slate of officers will be presented.

Bob Ruddy has worked on getting an audience for our social media. A lot of traffic was generated when the LAB results were publicized for 5th in bike friendliness. We now have an audience and can start tapping it for members and volunteers.

James Wilson updated the Board on the status of the campaign for DelDOT funding for biking and walking in the State budget. James has had numerous conversations with people in Dover, but work must continue especially in seeking the support of legislators on the Bond Committee. We will need to reach out to the Bike DE membership for their help. Bob Ruddy will work on matching up members to the legislators. Carol will work on messages to send to Bike DE members as well as WCBC.

There has been a lot of excitement about Delaware being ranked 5th in Bike Friendliness by the League of American Bicyclists. We need to publicize why we are 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm. The next meeting will be June 11 in Glasgow, at Bill Osborne's meeting room, Suite 103, Biddle Building, off Rt. 40 near the Glasgow Shopping Center.