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March Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2017

Attending were Mark Deshon (chair and resident), Susan Grasso (resident), Karl Hassler (resident), Sean Watson (resident), Brian Bahnson (resident), Bob McBride (resident), Michael Fera (UD student), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project), Paul Moser (DelDOT), Mike Fortner (City of Newark/Planning), Joe Spadafino (City of Newark/Parks and Recreation), John Bare (Bike Delaware), Joe Charma (Downtown Newark Partnership), Ofc. Taras Gerasimov (Newark Police Department), and Ofc. Mike Slater (University of Delaware/Police).

Regrets: Karen Rosenberg (resident)

- *Bike Delaware announcement*

Bike Delaware's John Bare opened the meeting with an announcement about this year's Walkable Bikeable Delaware Summit, which will take place on Thursday, May 4, on the Legislative Green in Dover, roughly between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. John said that volunteers are needed for this event and that, in exchange for a cadre of BikeNewark volunteers, Bike Delaware will give BikeNewark a half-page of ad space in its program.

Bob McBride, Susan Grasso, and Michael Fera volunteered to help. Karl Hassler can help but not at the registration table.

- *Places for Bikes opportunity*

This item was brought up last month, and those present urged us to go forward and contact the city about applying for this PeopleForBikes program. Heather Dunigan reported that she, Mark Deshon, and Susan met with City of Newark Community Affairs Officer Megan McNerney to discuss the application process, the deadline for which is April 15. She passed out a handout for this and two other important survey instruments.

Heather said that an important part of the program is getting community members to complete an online survey rating our city. She explained that it's a lot like the League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community rating program. In the PeopleForBikes vernacular, "It asks questions such as how safe biking feels, whether it's getting better, and where are your favorite places to ride." The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. (See next page.)

People for Bikes

City Rating System survey

<http://www.peopleforbikes.org/placesforbikes/pages/city-rating-system>

In fall 2017, we'll publish the first PlacesForBikes city ratings: a data-driven system identifying the best U.S. cities for bicycling and rewarding those that are improving the fastest. Want your town on the all-star list? The ratings will be based in part on your input.

Everyone can participate regardless of where, how or why they ride. It asks questions such as how safe biking feels, whether it's getting better, and where are your favorite places to ride. Click on the link above to take the 10 minute survey and share this link with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues. The more responses we get by **April 15**, the better picture we'll have of local biking.

Blueprint for a Bicycle-Friendly Delaware – A Statewide Policy Plan

http://www.deldot.gov/information/projects/blueprint_bicycle_friendly_delaware/

Survey

Your responses are very important. Completion of this survey takes less than 5 minutes and will help the Delaware Department of Transportation set priorities for the Statewide Bicycle Policy Plan. Bicycle-friendly is used in this survey to describe places or things that make bicycling easier, safer, or better.

Wiki Map

Welcome to the WikiMap for bicycling in Delaware! The State and other organizations are working on a bicycle policy plan to support the development of a safe, connected, and equitable network of bicycle facilities throughout the state! Your input will help planners better understand where people want to bike and problematic locations and corridors for people trying to bike.

Delaware Greenways Northern Delaware Trails

<http://delawaregreenways.org/gathering-ideas/>

Whether you walk your dog on the Greenways trails each day, or would like to find an off-road option for commuting to work or going shopping, you are an important part of the trail development process. We want your ideas and suggestions for developing trails and pathways that will serve your needs and will become a valuable resource to your community.

Mark urged each person present [and urges those who couldn't make the meeting] to complete this survey as soon as possible.

Heather also mentioned the other two surveys (see previous page)—one for Blueprint for a Bicycle-Friendly Delaware (statewide bicycle policy plan) and one for the Northern Delaware Trails Coalition (through Delaware Greenways). So far, only 2% of statewide responses for the policy plan document and 5 responses for the trails coalition survey had come from Newark.

Karl Hassler suggested that we blog about these three surveys and take advantage of social media to get the word out. Mark agreed to write up something for the website that would be featured on the homepage.

- *Communication about our activity with the City of Newark*

Mark asked the group for input with regard to how best to communicate what we're thinking about, what we're planning, and what we're doing with the various elements of city government. This was spurred largely due to Newark Deputy Police Chief Farrell's surprise at hearing about the mock-up we are looking to do along Orchard Road, which includes temporary mini-circles, bikeway signage, and pavement markings as part of a proposed central bikeway loop.

One suggestion was to carbon copy all department heads when we issue our meeting minutes. Heather, reminding us that BikeNewark is not part of the official process within the city, suggested we check in ahead of time, particularly with the city's Traffic Committee to see whether anything we're planning should become an agenda item for one of its meetings. Joe Charma said that the Downtown Newark Partnership had experienced similar issues and suggested that there needs to be a BikeNewark representative on the city's Traffic (or transportation) Committee. Susan said that John Morgan had suggested the same thing.

Mark said that we will take all these suggestions under advisement.

- *Update on plans for spring events*

- *Bike Central – safety checkpoint events*

Ban Phommachanh had emailed the following dates/times for the scheduled Bike Central events this semester on The Green at Delaware Avenue.

Thursday, April 13, from 1–3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3, from 1–3 p.m. (we'll be competing against the UD Creamery truck)

Participants asked whether these times are correct. The minutes from last month's meeting said 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mark said he'd double check with Ban. [The above times are indeed correct. It's 1–3 p.m. both days. Ban indicated that this was the information distributed during freshman check-in back in August.]

We are seeking Newark Bike Project volunteers for that day. Heather said she'll try to secure mechanics for each event. Paul Moser said that there would be at least two DelDOT personnel present. They'll bring their tent and tools.

- *Mayor's Fun Ride*

Joe Spadafino reported that the Mayor's Fun Ride will take place on Saturday, May 6, beginning and ending at the Newark Shopping Center. The 2.25-mile Family Fun Ride will begin at 10:15 a.m., and the 8.7-mile Newark Loop Fun Ride will begin at 11:00 a.m. There will be live music, a skills course, and food vendors.

Mark mentioned that the Family Fun Ride route is new and that the Newark Loop Fun Ride will be the same course as was used last year. He also asked if the committee had talked about an emcee for the event. Joe said that they hadn't yet, but that they are going to see if the Mayor's role in speaking can be minimized in favor of an event emcee who will be able to use the band's sound system.

With respect to the skills course, Susan mentioned that Brian Bahnson, who organized, set up, and managed the skills course last year, will be out of town and unavailable on the day of the event. Heather asked if David Bartoo is available. Brian said that all the elements used last year are in David Bartoo's shop. Paul Moser will find out if either he or Sarah Coakley is available to handle this part of the event.

Susan mentioned that the Mayor wants to really ramp up this event so that it has a real festival-like feel. At the event committee meeting it was suggested that the event be marketed as from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Heather said that the Newark Bike Project shop opens at noon, so she's not sure she can assure NBP's support from noon to 1 p.m.

Susan also mentioned that she has been working on getting in-ride volunteers to monitor the ride group for the longer ride. This would help the Newark Police somewhat, as they have been concerned about event management over such a long route with a widely spread-out group of participants.

Joe asked Paul if DelDOT could provide any helmets. Paul will check. Susan added that she's working on organizing young volunteers to staff a helmet-decorating table.

- *Bike to Work Day*

Mike Fortner noted that he had met with the Education and Encouragement subcommittee recently and that the next planning meeting would be on March 22 at 8 a.m. at Brewed Awakenings. He said that there would be a friendly commuting competition planned through use of an app that some of UD's public policy students would be working to organize, and through which some bike-commuter data can be captured. He said he has been getting the word out to area businesses, as part of an on-foot approach to potential event sponsorship.

Mark unveiled the event flyer, which was part of this meeting's handout packet (see page 7).

Bob McBride insisted that we line up coverage of the event. Mark said that in the past, either UD or the City of Newark had provided a photographer and that the event has been covered by both *UDaily* and the *Newark Post*. We'll work with both partners to ensure coverage.

Susan mentioned that Karen Rosenberg has confirmed that former Gov. Jack Markell's mother and his son and daughter will be present to accept an award on his behalf. Mark asked if the Mayor and/or Governor Carney will be there. Mike wasn't sure at this point but said that City Manager Carol Houck will definitely attend.

- *Bike to School Week (at John R. Downes Elementary School)*

Susan said that the event committee is moving forward with an organized "bike train" for the initial day, Monday, May 8. They will also be employing an app being developed by a couple UD public policy students for gathering bike data.

The pop-up demonstration is not "a go" right now, so they're exploring alternatives. The plan was to mock up a protected bike lane for the event week. Part of the problem was how and where to students cross Casho Mill Road to get to the school. There was talk about a possible two-way cycle track, but DelDOT has said "no" to this idea. The committee is still working with UD's Engineers Without Borders students to help with design. There is a need for a design permit application to be filed with DelDOT by March 24. Paul insisted that it's a simple, three-page application. The pop-up demonstration is on the April 18 agenda of the city's Traffic Committee.

Heather asked about the possibility of a crosswalk mock-up. Susan said she's concerned about whether Newark PD would be willing to accept this during the event week.

- *Quick subcommittee updates*

- *Education/Encouragement subcommittee*

Susan reported that the next First Friday Ride is scheduled for April 7 and will conclude at Bamboo House in the College Square Shopping Center. She added that the restaurant has expressed concern with the potential size of our group because of its small size and the fact that Fridays are the restaurant's busiest night for business. Susan said she needs to think through how to communicate to participants that they may need to prepare for a long wait, if they plan to eat there after the ride.

Susan reported that she had met again with the UD Visual Communications students about the planned bicycle civility campaign, which might well coincide with National Bike Month (May). She passed around smaller samples of five of the six poster designs that the students had created. She would like feedback by March 20. Mark asked if the BikeNewark logo could be incorporated, and Heather suggested we check with Megan about using the City of Newark logo as well to enhance the partnership aspect of this effort. Joe Charma said we should check with Tom Coleman about possible installation onto the trashcans along Main Street. He also suggested we run these designs by the city's communications professionals—Kelly, Megan, and Kyle. Susan asked if Heather could possibly provide a cruiser bike to decorate.

- *Engineering subcommittee*

Mark reported that on Friday, March 3, the subcommittee met with consultant to DelDOT Matt Buckley, UD's Rich Rind, and UD's Police Chief Pat Ogden to discuss our proposal for a short Main Street contraflow lane between North College Avenue and South College Avenue. Unfortunately, key players from the Newark Police Department were not able to be present due to an emergent commitment. We came up with solutions for striping and signage. Mark and Tom subsequently met with Ofc. Dennis Aniunas and Ofc. Curtis Davis of the Newark PD to go over these and get their input.

We're getting closer to mutual agreement on a set of solutions for striping and signage that will be implemented sometime this spring and tested, but we're not quite there yet. The short contraflow lane with double yellow lines bordering it is "a go." The stop line for traffic on East Main Street would be backed up eastward just enough to allow easier bicycle flow into this pocket contraflow lane. It was agreed that appropriate signage for bicyclists be installed as well. Signals will not be altered, nor will there be any bicyclist-specific signal phase. It's just too complex for DelDOT within their constraints. So, it looks like the area will remain much like it is now, only with enhancements—the biggest one being the pocket contraflow lane.

Mark admitted that he and Tom Coleman erred during the meeting with Newark PD in forgetting why the consensus of the subcommittee meeting was to retain the bike lane on North College Avenue. Considering that we weren't able to have Newark PD representatives at the March 3 meeting, Mark will be trying to communicate and get input from all parties to try to come to a consensus conclusion on a plan. Matt Buckley has sent him a step-wise set of options for consideration, which he'll be sharing with the subcommittee, UD, and Newark PD.

One thing that is certain. Ahead of implementation, we'll need to do a seriously thought-out publicity campaign to educate everyone, particularly UD students, as to the new markings and how to operate within the constricts of the law as bicyclists make their way southbound from North College Avenue to South College Avenue. Immediately after implementation, there will need to be some level of monitoring and enforcement.

Mark talked about the possibility of shooting video. Paul said DelDOT could position a camera and get footage of the intersection. Mark said that would be great. Mark said he was thinking about doing an actual ride using a GoPro, to demonstrate the preferred bicycling behavior through that area going southbound. Michael said he had a GoPro and that he would be happy to help. He and Mark will collaborate on this once the snow is gone. Joe Charma suggested that we employ Megan McNerney to help produce the video and add voiceovers to enhance its effectiveness, as this is her area of expertise. Mark will follow up with her on this.

- *One talking point to feed Mayor Sierer for April City Council meeting*

After Mike reminded us that, due to the City Council election on April 10, there would only be one City Council meeting—April 24. We came to the quick conclusion that Mayor Sierer should then pitch all the National Bike Month-related events being planned in the Newark area. These include the second of two Bike Central safety checkpoint events on Wednesday, May 3; the First

Friday Ride on Friday, May 5; the Mayor's Fun Ride on Saturday, May 6; the Bike to School Week emphasis at John R. Downes from May 8–12; and the National Bike to Work Day in Newark celebration on Friday, May 19. See info for each in previous notations within this document.

- *Old or new business*

- *Request by Delaware Greenways for support in terms of coalition membership from BikeNewark*

Mark reported that Delaware Greenways has made a formal request that BikeNewark consider becoming one of its official coalition member organizations. There's no need for any payment, just a caveat of a list of things we would agree to do (see last two pages).

Heather explained that this effort is the Delaware version of the Philadelphia region of trails. These are all-weather multi-use trails (like the Hall and Pomeroy Trails) that have largely been financed by the William Penn Foundation, unusual in that this is one of the few foundations that will actually help support and pay for infrastructure. John mentioned that they're struggling to link Newark to Hockessin and the Pike Creek Valley, largely due to the presence of busy arterials and lots of hills.

Mark asked for the group's consensus; those present agreed that BikeNewark should become a coalition member. Mark will follow up with Jeff Greene of Delaware Greenways.


- *Update on organizational status*

Susan reported that Mark had received confirmation from the state of Delaware on the filing of papers for BikeNewark's corporate entity (Bike Newark, Inc.), the papers for which she had filed. The corporate general liability (CGL) insurance policy was purchased through LAB for a cost of \$250, funded by a loan from Karl. Mark funded the cost of a new banner, which he said he was sorry he forgot to bring to this meeting. He also paid for the first-year operating cost of the BikeNewark website.

Susan asked that everyone present and those not present should present feedback on Articles I, II, IV, and V of the BikeNewark draft bylaws by this coming Monday, March 20. Brian asked Susan whether the document the link to which she had sent is an excerpt of the whole document on which the ad hoc committee was working. She said it is, in that it just contains Articles I–V. Mark will send out a reminder by email.

Before concluding the meeting, Mark took the time to re-introduce Bob McBride. Bob recently retired to Newark after years away (in Pennsylvania) and was the first to answer our ad for treasurer for BikeNewark and comes very qualified to help us in this way. We heartily welcome him.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, April 20, at 4 p.m. at WILMAPCO. In the chair's absence, Susan Grasso has agreed to facilitate the meeting.



Bike NATIONAL **to Work Day** **FRI., MAY 19 in Newark**

THE LEAGUE » NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

Bike to Work, Newark!

Friday, May 19, 7:30–9:00 AM at Mentors' Circle*
on the UD campus *just off South College Avenue at Kent Way

Join others as Newark celebrates this national cycling event, featuring:

- » **FREE T-SHIRTS**
- » **BREAKFAST FOOD**
- » **SPEAKERS, AWARDS**
- » **RANDOM PRIZES**

Organized by BikeNewark »

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**BikeNewark is a partnership of interested cyclists
and organizations working to improve bicycling in Newark, Delaware.**



Event Partners





Future Trails of Northern Delaware

Coalition Membership Form

Coalition Mission:

The Coalition will develop consensus on a major trail network for Northern Delaware and will work together over the coming years to push its development forward. By speaking with one voice, the coalition will be a powerful agent in securing funds and keeping the focus on the community's highest priority trail projects.

Benefits of membership:

- Know that you are benefitting the community through an accelerated pace of trail development
- Influence the priorities of trail development
- Collaborate, synergize and leverage so the outcome is more than the sum of the parts
- Develop stronger relationships with both government and organizations that have overlapping interests
- Recognition for being a trail blazer!

Who can become a member?

- non-profit organizations
- hiking/bicycling groups
- civic organizations
- businesses/corporations
- government agencies and elected officials

As a Coalition member, what role will you play?

- Reach out to your constituency to get feedback on trail ideas and ground truthing
- Work together to define a consensus high priority arterial network
- Identify candidates for early action projects
- Develop ideas/strategies for potential funding sources
- Possibly choose to lead/drive a particular project forward
- Must commit to putting the weight of the organization behind the unified push for funding and development of the proposed trails and pathways

How to Join:

Please sign the statement below, fill out the remaining information and return the completed form to Jeff Greene at **jgreene@delawaregreenways.org**. Please provide a high definition jpeg of your organization's logo to be used in promotional materials related to the Future Trails Coalition. *

_____ supports the above mission statement as a
Organization

condition for membership to the Future Trails of Northern Delaware Coalition.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name Printed _____

Form continued on other side

Contact Information

Organization Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Primary Contact _____

Title _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website _____

Organization Information

Briefly describe your organization's mission.

Does your organization have relationships with any members of federal or state government agencies? If so which?

Coalition Input:

What issues are of most interest to your organization?

Do you know other organizations that might be interested in joining the Coalition?

* Organizational Logos will only be used in conjunction with Future Trails of Northern Delaware promotional materials. They will be added to the Delaware Greenways website and will be included on print and presentation materials for Future Trails of Northern Delaware. If at any time, the Coalition member organization decides to discontinue its membership, its Coalition member logo will be deleted from the Delaware Greenways website, and deleted from Delaware Greenways files.