



March Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2024 (Virtual Meeting)

Bob McBride called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Member Attendees: Bob McBride (Chair), Karl Hassler (Treasurer), Michael Smith (Secretary), Mark Deshon, Dave Schultz, Rob Seward, David Saunders, and John Salmon

Partner Liaison Attendees:

WILMAPCO and Newark Bike Project: Heather Dunigan
DelDOT: Paul Moser

Guest: JT Fleming

Final Discussion of Draft BikeNewark Goals for 2024 (see attached)

- The goals were summarized, finalized and published on the website by Mark Deshon.

Engineering Committee Update (see attached)

- Mark said that the city hasn't had a sign installer for a while, and Karl Hassler noted that now a few signs that are down / missing and are in need of some TLC
- Paul Moser asked if there was appetite to discuss the potential roundabout coming onto Possum Park, Karl and Michael Smith expressed interest in a discussion

Planning Other Projects for 2024

- Grand Re-opening of the Newark Bike Project - April 19
 - Heather Dunigan said the ribbon cutting will be at 5 pm with speakers, food and drinks
 - Heather added that DIY repair can be reserved online Monday - Thursday, 5 - 7 pm
 - Heather said that NBP has offered to be the starting point for future FirstFriday rides
- UD Spring Bike-safety Events - April 2 and April 10
 - Bob McBride said that he'll be able to both drop off the materials to campus and attend
 - Mark said UDaily doesn't want to promote events, more focused on reporting the past
 - David Schultz said that he'll look into sending the info to UD event promotion outlets
 - Karl suggested submitted something to the UD radio show "What The Cluck"
 - Dave noted that the online calendar is empty, Mark said he'll chat with Karen Rosenberg
- NCCL Kids GreenFest 2024 - April 13
 - Bob said that he is planning on helping out and welcomed others to come by NCCL
- Bike to School Day - May 16
 - Heather said that Downes Elementary is leading the event with Safe Kids Delaware

- Bike to Work Day - May 17
 - Bob asked if we want it on the national day, Mark joking said yes because it's his birthday
 - Bob said that he will reach out to Mike Fortner and Caitlin Olsen to get planning updates
- Family Bike Fest - June 9
 - Kevin told Bob that the event is booked for June 9th between 11 am and 2 pm
- FirstFriday Rides
 - Michael mentioned that Barb Hughes has stepped down as the coordinator for the rides
 - Michael offered to lead the rides in the future, but does not have capacity to make routes
 - Heather suggested going route-less this year, and having a static website has generic info
- Newark Community Day - September 15
 - Bob asked if any planning work needs to be done at this point, no one suggested so

Update for Other Projects

- Local Wayfinding App
 - Bob said that there are not updates yet on the app, but he will speak to AI Whoo soon
- Trail Signage Kiosks
 - Karl said that he and Mark went on a site visit of the various locations for the kiosks, with the fourth spot being moved to Olan Park
 - Mark said that Joe Spadafino wants to get the kiosks installed before his retirement
 - Mark said he is planning on working up a map graphic to put in the kiosks once installed
- Newark Bicycle Plan
 - Heather said information for the field work opportunities will be sent out soon
- Bikeway Extensions
 - Karl said Angie reviewed the current draft alignment for the Newport to Newark trail proposal, next steps include finalizing the draft alignment from the feedback at the meeting and hold another public open house in the spring or summer
 - Mark said that Newport to Newark trail can be tied into the potential Northeast bikeway
 - Heather said that the bicycle infrastructure proposed near Cooch's Bridge (which was tied into larger projects) was not taken favorably during a recent public meeting
 - Heather noted that another public forum will be at Glasgow HS on March 25th at 5:30
 - Karl mentioned that he tried to emphasize bicycle infrastructure during the recent Kirkwood Highway study meeting
- S College Ave Gateway Project
 - Heather said the initial analysis is going a bit slowly, but the analysis is still funded
 - Karl asked if there was discussion with UD about their take on the project, Heather said much work needs to be done before then

Treasurer's Report

- Karl mentioned that we received a few donations and memberships, and paid out TNP dues and the franchise tax

Beginning balance 2/16/2023		\$ 2,895.54	\$ (0.00)	\$ 2,895.54
Additions:				
2/20/24	Donation - Bike DE	100.00		100.00
2/25/24	W Trout- Donation		5.00	
2/29/24	Interest	0.02		0.02
3/5	S I Shah - Membership		10.00	
3/5	B Bahnson - Membership		10.00	
3/6	D Weile - Membership		10.00	
3/6	D Leipold - Membership		10.00	
3/11	L Webber - Membership		10.00	
3/19	L Rossi-Membership		10.00	
3/21	Transfer PayPal-WSFS	59.33	(59.33)	
Total additions		159.35	5.67	165.02
Deductions:				
2/16/24	AKISMET Anti-Spam for website [3]	18.00		18.00
2/20/24	State of DE - 2022 Franchise Tax	25.00		25.00
2/28/24	The Newark Partnership dues [4]	25.00		25.00
3/21	Paypal fee		5.67	
Total deductions		68.00	5.67	73.67
Surplus (deficit)		91.35	0.00	91.35
Ending balance 3/21/2024		\$ 2,986.89	\$ (0.00)	\$ 2,986.89

Old and New Business

- Joe Spadafino is retiring from the city on May 3rd, Mark suggested giving him our annual award during Bike to Work Day
- David Saunders mentioned that there are opportunities to “adopt” stretches of the Christina Valley Stream trail (roughly 2 hours a month of trimming and inspection) and asked for Dave an email to be sent to the membership, to be directed to Gary Kirk. Karl will ask Robbie Downward if this opportunity can be listed on the Trail Spinners channels

Adjourned at 5:09 pm

Minutes by Michael Smith



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BikeNewark Goals for 2024

- 1) Continue development of final phase of Newark Bikeways and wayfinding signage, including installation of four kiosks (at three locations on the Central Loop and at Olan Thomas Park).
- 2) Assist in revision/update of *2014 Newark Bicycle Plan* in coordination with WILMAPCO and the City of Newark.
- 3) Develop a bike-parking proposal and needs assessment for the entire Newark community.
- 4) Assist in planning phase of improvements to South College Avenue, from I-95 to Main Street.
- 5) Provide bike advocacy- and bike safety-related public events in cooperation with partner organizations.
- 6) Create safety-training publication, video(s), and online materials.
 - showcasing the completed Newark Bikeways segments
 - biking along Delaware Avenue on the cycletrack
 - how to bike to school using the Newark Bikeways low-stress network
- 7) Seek opportunities to sponsor or co-sponsor bicycling-related events with partner organizations or other entities, with emphasis on equity and inclusion for specific sub-communities within Newark.

BikeNewark

Engineering Committee meeting notes – March 8, 2024

Attending: *committee members* Mark Deshon (chair), Karl Hassler, Dave Saunders, Rodolfo Gomes, Tim Filasky (Public Works & Water Resources), Joe Spadafino (Parks & Recreation), Heather Dunigan (WILMAPCO), Paul Moser (DelDOT), and Stefan Rukowicz (Public Works & Water Resources); *guest* Bob McBride

Absent: *committee member* Helga Huntley

Status of Wayfinding Signage on Newark Bikeways and Strategy Going Forward

Mark Deshon indicated that efforts to tackle necessary gaps and repairs in its Newark Bikeways wayfinding have effectively stalled for the past nine months. Tim Filasky stated that the City would not be hiring a staff member who would be responsible for signage for another three months, noting that even then the City must prioritize regulatory signs over bike-route marking, information, and other signs. Karl Hassler and Mark agreed to do a full signage inventory and will present a prioritized list to Tim, who requested that BikeNewark furnish quarterly signage reports in the future.

Installation of Four Newark Bikeways Kiosks

Joe Spadafino says he has seen the kiosks shipment and says they look nice. Mark has begun working on information design, which basically integrates the Newark Bikeways map and space for two flyers. Joe wants to have these kiosks installed this spring, definitely prior to his May retirement date. Karl said he'd review the specific requirements of our grant from the state through Rep. Cyndie Romer.

It was decided that kiosks will be installed at the junctions of the Southwest and Central Loop bikeways (in Phillips Park); the Hall and Pomeroy trails (on the Central Loop); the North, South, and Central Loop bikeways (on Delaware Avenue); and near the North and (proposed) Northeast bikeways (in Olan Thomas Park). Joe will work with Karl and Mark for specific location markouts and kiosk content.

Proposal Idea(s) for a Portion of the South Bikeway Along Library Avenue

Mark renewed discussion on the Library Avenue path issue at the UD Farm Road and suggested that one solution might be to add to the wide shoulder a two-way amenity like on Delaware Avenue. Paul Moser said that better plan might be to reposition the guardrail near the white line that divides the travel lane from the shoulder and extend the area for the path. Heather Dunigan concurred that this path is part of the East Coast Greenway (ECG) up to the Wyoming Road intersection but that it needs maintenance more than anything else. Mark said that the pinch point is still the awkward movement forced on bicyclists at the UD Farm Road. Mark will get together with Heather, Paul, and Rodolfo Gomes to brainstorm reasonable (in time and funding) solutions given the issues—vegetation, debris, safety, guardrail wrapping at Farm Rd., and the ECG route. Rodolfo volunteered to create a bike video along this route.

Status of City Infrastructure Projects

- **Wyoming Road improvements** – Tim said that DelDOT is working on the Library Rd. intersection (through a Hazard Elimination Program), and signal changes are forthcoming to help curtail accidents. No real progress has been made on the Wyoming Road sections to date. Heather mentioned that this project is part of the city's Transportation Improvement District (TID) and

would be a good candidate for a “Safe Streets for All” federal grant and that the City should use WILMAPCO New Castle County Action Plan as its basis.

- ***Emerson Bridge connector trails*** – Joe said that Pennoni, the design firm hired for this project, is working on permitting (through DelDOT) and final designs. Maybe by summer, the City will be able to review designs. Joe is looking for the City to send the project out for construction bids before the end of the year and begin construction in 2025.
- ***Chrysler Avenue redesign*** – Tim said that this project did not get the overwhelming response that Wyoming Road did, which means that improvements in this corridor (part of the Southwest Bikeway) will not be a high priority. Pedestrian concerns seemed to be deemed more important than improvements for bicyclists here. Stormwater drainage was included, which may help. Tim said that, apart from this project, the City will be working on improving Gravenor Lane and the opening to Cornwall Drive. He also mentioned that he thinks the misleading ECG signs have been removed and repositioned to be contiguous with the Southwest Bikeway.