

Newark Bicycle Committee
July 21, 2011, 4:00-5:00 pm
Wilmington Area Planning Council

Minutes

In attendance

Bob Bennett
Mark Deshon
Heather Dunigan
Charlie Emerson
Karl Hassler
Rich LaPointe
Jamie Magee
Ann Marie McKeever
Jeff Riegner
Bob Ruddy
Frank Warnock

Not in attendance

Anthony Aglio
Mike Fortner
Jim Grimes
Willett Kempton
Dan LaCombe
Chris Richard
George Stanko
Arthur Wicks
Amy Wilburn
James Wilson

Guest

Angela Cunneely, Bike Delaware

Introductions

The meeting convened at 4:00 pm.

Newark Transportation Plan (Heather Dunigan)

- Heather reported that she is trying to get on the City Council agenda for adoption of the Newark Transportation Plan in September.
- Main Street sharrows and wrong-way riding signs are estimated to cost about \$15,000. Rich LaPointe asked for more detailed information to plan for installation.

Downtown bike racks (Mike Fortner)

- Rich said that some in-street racks have been removed because they were struck by parking cars. Jeff Riegner suggested that, until bulbouts can be extended to put the racks at sidewalk level, some type of vertical extension be installed so they are visible in rear-view mirrors.
- Mike Fortner reported by email that he is still working with businesses to get additional racks installed in the sidewalk, but has met some aesthetic concerns.

- Charlie Emerson is working on code language to ban locking bikes to trees. Several Committee members expressed concern that new racks should be installed before that ban takes effect so there are reasonable bike parking options.
- Frank Warnock suggested (as at past meetings) that small circular racks be mounted to parking meters. These could be designed to complement the looks of the new meters and would likely result in the meters being scratched less by bike locks. Charlie suggested he coordinate with Mike.

Community Day (Mike Fortner)

- Jeff reminded everyone that Community Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 18 from 11 am to 4 pm. He confirmed the following responsibilities, which were discussed last month:
 - Heather will draft a “dot board” to discuss what would convince attendees to bike (or bike more) in Newark.
 - Dan LaCombe will provide DelDOT giveaways.
 - Jeff will look into the feasibility of printing Newark-only versions of the new state bike maps as handouts.
 - Heather will develop a Newark Transportation Plan marketing piece outlining the Committee’s recommended short-term improvements. She will also print and bring Committee and wrong-way riding brochures.
- Mark Deshon determined that a Committee banner will cost in the \$75-90 range. However, the Committee has no budget. Rich suggested that Mark contact George Stanko.

Checkpoints (Dan LaCombe)

- By email, Dan said that the checkpoints will be held at 9 am on Wednesday, September 7 and Thursday, September 15. Interested volunteers should email Jeff and Dan. Mark will check with Dan to see whether and how the checkpoints should be advertised. Frank will post to the Bike Delaware blog and Heather will do a press release afterward.

Sharrow brochure (Dan LaCombe)

- No report.

1743 redevelopment (Bob Bennett)

- No report.

University of Delaware outreach (Ann Marie McKeever)

- Ann Marie reminded the Committee of her and Mark’s meeting with Linda Smith of UD’s Wellness program. The goal of this outreach effort will be to get more UD employees biking to work. They are working with Linda on an employee email survey.

Pomeroy Trail (Charlie Emerson)

- Construction of the trail will start before September 14, generally working south to north.
- Charlie is counting the Hall Trail, assisted by State Parks, for at least three months to get good data before the Pomeroy Trail opens.
- The Committee discussed whether some of the money left over for the Pomeroy Trail could be used to purchase the alignment of the former spur to Creek View Drive.

New Business

- Charlie reported that \$7 million has been allocated for trails and greenways, \$2 million of which is in state parks. One potential project is a separate bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the White Clay Creek just west of Paper Mill Road, helping avoid the walking and biking limitations of the existing historic road bridge. He also indicated that there is broad interest in a Wilmington-to-Newark trail, potentially along the White Clay Creek.
- Frank said that bike lane markings were restored on Delaware Avenue earlier in the week. He also noted that UD will be involved with DeIDOT in research on bicycle treatments for right turn lanes.
- Ann Marie said that the shared-use path along Christina Parkway needs maintenance. That will be reported to DeIDOT.

The meeting adjourned about 5:00 pm.