

**Bike Medina County**  
**April 4, 2019**  
**Medina County Administration Building**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

Secretary John Gladden (Medina County Park District), Roger and Mara Hornstrom, Dan Hostetler (Medina County Convention and Visitors Bureau), Second Vice President Lynne Nawalaniec (Century Cycles), Tony Ratajczak (NOACA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee), President Beth Schnabel, First Vice President Tim Smith, Treasurer Suzanne Swain (Friends of Medina County Parks), Jansen Wehrley (Medina City Parks Director).

**Call to Order**

Tim called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. and introduced Brian Travalik of Brunswick Area Television, who was filming portions of the meeting for the program "Our Backyard."

**Approval of Minutes**

March minutes were approved following a motion by Dan, seconded by Beth. All voted in favor.

**Treasurer's Report**

Suzanne reported a balance of \$4,298.74. She continues to pursue options for a credit card from U.S. Bank with help from Friends of the Parks member Robin Arona.

**Old Business**

Beth reported all but four townships have picked up their 3-Foot-Rule signs. Several of the 155 total signs are already up around the county.

Beth shared a letter she had written with the headline "Importance of Identifying 3-foot Signs on Map." There was general discussion on the proposed map project. Concerns were expressed about creating an additional bike route system. Lynne suggested waiting until the next NOACA bike map update to see if sign locations could be added to that map. Tony brought up the point that signs do not necessarily make routes safer -- especially in the coming era of autonomous cars, which cannot read signs or sense cyclists in their path. Jansen noted that the existing bike route maps align with one another, while the proposed 3-foot-sign map may not be in agreement with those established maps. Greater connectivity among projects improves the chances of obtaining future grants, he said. Jansen recommended saturating existing bike routes with the 3-Foot-Rule signs -- especially on major routes entering the city -- to increase the number of motorists who see them. Tony agreed. Lynne suggested putting the sign locations on the Bike Medina County website for those who would like to know their locations. Beth requested to table the map project until it's determined if NOACA can include sign locations on its next map.

John reported insurance options are still pending. He is completing an application from Buren Insurance Group that must include a business plan. Tony suggested using the proposed Bike Medina County strategic plan as a business plan. John welcomed that idea. Lynne will check with some national cycling groups on their insurance plans. Dan is facilitating the gathering of an additional local quote.

Due to a large number of schedule conflicts for task force members, the July meeting of Bike Medina County will be canceled. The Lake to Lake Tour planning committee still plans to meet on a date TBA.

Plans were confirmed for the Bike Medina County display at Earth Day and the Twin Sizzler.

Roger and Mara shared bike safety handouts from AAA of Canada that include a sticker for a car's rear-view mirror to remind motorists to watch for cyclists. Tony suggested displaying a 3-Foot-Rule sign at the Medina AAA office.

### **New Business**

Plans were confirmed for a Bike Medina County display at the Kids Day of Safety and Play on June 1. Don at Century Cycles will provide a table and tent.

Lynne reported receiving a \$500 donation for the Lake to Lake Tour. John has drafted a fundraising letter that needs approval by the committee.

Beth reminded the group about the Bike Medina County display for the Fall Foliage Tour and the need for volunteers as the date draws closer.

Beth shared that Keith Rasey would like to conduct his annual Blessing of the Bikes event at 2 p.m. May 19 on Medina's Public Square. However, he may still need to finalize his application with the city, so the location could be subject to change. Tim suggested holding the event at Spokes Cafe. Jansen agreed, saying the permitting process would be much simpler. He also suggested Austin Badger Park. Tony noted River Styx Road is not conducive to bicycling. Lynne said while that may be true, cyclists do utilize it.

Tony shared information on a proposed Bicycle Friendly Business initiative that would include advocating for the installation of bike racks at places of business. Several things need to be done, including identifying the appropriate business contacts, choosing a rack design, and discussing ways Bike Medina County might subsidize either the cost or installation of the racks. Tony favors subsidizing installation, so that we know the racks will be put into use.

Suzanne said that we need to be sure we have adequate funds in reserve to pay for officers insurance.

Lynne noted the Medina County Health Department is installing bike racks. Tony said he talked to them about doing that three years ago.

Regarding design, Jansen said the city doesn't dictate what style of racks businesses may place on their property, but racks installed in the historic district must be approved by the Historic Preservation Board. The cost of racks recently installed by the city was about \$300 each, plus the cost of concrete.

Tony noted the potential of lower costs for the racks if Bike Medina County could buy them in bulk. Dan recommended checking with a tax expert to see if it's permissible for a non-profit to buy the racks on behalf of for-profit businesses.

Jansen noted the number of business owners that would need to be contacted may be lower than expected, since many commercial buildings have multiple tenants but only one owner.

Tim reported he spoke with Medina County Transit Director Shannon Rine, who is willing to put bike racks back on county buses. They had been removed due to lack of use. Beth suggested Bike Medina County issue a letter of support. Tim will provide a draft and John will finalize it.

Tony questioned whether a rider can hail a county bus anywhere along its route or if riders can only get on buses at predetermined stops. Tim said riders in Brunswick are able to hail the buses.

### **Reports**

Lynne reported that planning is moving forward for the Restaurant Roll. The idea is that if cyclists ride their bikes to a particular restaurant on a designated date, they would receive a discount on their bill and be entered into a drawing for a new bike. Planners are in the process of reaching out to various restaurants.

Tony reported on his meeting with Medina County Park District Director Nate Eppink regarding the planned connector trail linking Signature Square Plaza with Lake Medina. The park district is in the process of communicating with the plaza owner and businesses to get their input on where the connector should meet the plaza.

Jansen noted there has been significant progress on the NOACA bike route project that extends from Sturbridge Drive to Grant Street and South Broadway. A number of route signs have been posted. Bike lane painting will take place as weather permits. Tony asked why the project did not use Medina Bicycle Transportation Route signs. Jansen said because the project received federal funding, other sign specifications had to be used. The next phase of the project will extend the bike route south to the Chippewa Rail Trail. Jansen said he will work collaboratively with the park district, since the city can make the bike route signs in-house, but it cannot place them outside the city limits. Tony suggested it would be good to somehow differentiate the county bike routes from ODOT's bike route system.

Lynne attended the March 26 safe cycling meeting organized by Mike Jansen of the new advocacy group the Wadsworth Exploration Guild. There were a total of eight in the audience. Lynne told Mike that Bike Medina County is willing to collaborate with him on future events and activities. Mike is planning some Friday slow-roll rides in the coming weeks. Lynne cautioned him to look into potential liability issues.

Lynne reported the spring kick-off event at Century Cycles was a success. There was some pancake mix and syrup leftover, so the store may offer additional pancake breakfasts before upcoming rides.

Beth noted how impressed she was with the trail system and map created by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and encouraged others to check them out.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business before the committee, Beth moved to adjourn at 1:06 p.m.. Tony seconded. All voted in favor.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. May 2 at the Medina County Administration Building.