

Medina County Bicycle Transportation Task Force

April 5, 2018

Medina County Administration Building

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Present were: John Gladden (Medina County Park District), Lynne Nawalaniec (Century Cycles), guest Keith Rasey, Tony Ratejczak (NOACA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Medina County representative), Katie Sieb (NOACA), Pete Smakula (owner of Electric Pete's E-Bikes in Akron and a Medina County resident), Co-Chair Tim Smith, and Suzanne Swain (Friends of Medina Parks).

Call to Order

Lynne called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m. and asked John to record the minutes. Tim notified Lynne he would be arriving late due to an appointment and asked her to open the meeting in his absence. Tony also notified the committee he had an appointment as well and would be arriving late.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 1 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Katie said the final edits are being made on the new Medina County Bike Map, which will go to the printer in a matter of days. The initial printing will be 8,000 copies, with an expected delivery date of the first week of May. Katie shared a list of potential locations around the county for distributing the maps. To simplify distribution, she would like the printer to deliver them to a central location in Medina County, rather than to the NOACA office in Cleveland. Lynne offered to check with Century Cycles to see if the maps could be delivered and stored there. John offered the park district as a back-up. Katie noted many of the maps will be distributed immediately, so there should only be a handful of boxes that need longer-term storage. She noted Cuyahoga County's printing of 10,000 maps was entirely gone in two weeks. Katie also wanted to make clear she didn't want distribution to be a burden on any business or organization. Her office still will function as the focal point for anyone with questions about the map and she can point them to where they're available around the county. The committee discussed the idea of advertising a map pick-up day to generate excitement and publicity. Katie will bring a sign-up sheet to the next task force meeting so members can sign up to help get the maps to the various distribution points. The idea of organizing a map pick-up day can be

discussed further at that time. Katie thanked the committee for its assistance with the map, saying the task force has played a major role in the success of the project.

The task force discussed the process of pursuing non-profit status and agreed to continue in that direction, under Suzanne's leadership. She will meet with Deb Hallock, who has experience setting up her own non-profit foundation and offered to help the task force navigate the process. Deb also has invited the task force to be part of her foundation's future events and help make them more bicycle friendly.

Tim arrived at 12:12 p.m. and thanked Lynne for leading the meeting in his absence.

He reported Beth has been in contact with Sherry Stell from the Medina County Board of Realtors to discuss a potential grant. The grant amount and any stipulations on how the funding is to be used are still being determined.

Tony arrived at 12:23 p.m.

New Business

Tim reported he left messages with Sherri Meinke regarding work on a new website, but has not heard back from her. Katie reminded the group the task force's current web address is listed on the bike maps, so if it's changed, we'll have to be sure the old web address directs traffic to the new address. Lynne added the current web address also is included in the Lake to Lake ride listing in the Ohio Bicycle Events Calendar.

Regarding the proposed multipurpose trail along state Route 18 in Montville Township, Tony suggested the task force direct its efforts to convincing township trustees to approach ODOT with the idea of changing the surface from cement to asphalt. Pete and Katie offered to use their contacts with ODOT to help. Tony noted some of the urgency has diminished, since the project currently is unfunded.

Lynne said she will touch base with Beth regarding placing information about the Lake to Lake ride on the task force's display table at the Medina County Earth Day Festival on April 21. Tim is working with a printer on creating save-the-date cards for the ride.

Keith thanked the task force for allowing him the opportunity to talk about a new event he is organizing. He shared his personal story about being involved in two recent crashes while riding his bicycle. The first happened on state Route 18 when he accidentally hit the remains of a vehicle tire. The other happened on the Cuyahoga Valley National Park towpath trail when he collided with an oncoming rider who was riding two-abreast. Keith is planning a local "blessing of the bikes" type of ride and ceremony on May 22 to promote bike safety. It will be held in conjunction with a weekly promotion sponsored by Century Cycles and Johnny Malloy's Sports Pub. Cyclists who ride their bikes to Johnny Malloy's on Tuesday nights will receive a 15

percent discount on their bill and be entered into a raffle. Keith is a former Hospice chaplain, so he has experience in leading inclusive, non-sectarian ceremonies that all would feel welcome to participate in. Keith's business, People First Horizons, will sponsor the event, pay the event insurance, and order a small number of T-shirts. There will be no cost to participate. Keith invited the task force to share its thoughts on the proposal and thanked members for sharing their ideas. He offered to place the Bike Medina County logo on the T-shirts at no cost and to donate any proceeds back to the task force. Keith asked if Century Cycles would help sponsor the event with a monetary donation. Lynne said she would check with the store's manager. Keith will plan to attend the task force's next meeting to give an update. Committee members commended him on his plans.

Lynne reported the event committee will meet next at 5:30 p.m. April 16 at the Medina Panera. The committee is looking into various online registration options for this year's ride. Katie suggested inserting information about the bike ride into the new Medina County Bike Maps. She also noted there is a blank spot on the maps where a mailing-label-size sticker can be affixed. That space could be used for promotional purposes.

There were no other committee reports.

Katie handed out flyers from NOACA promoting this year's May Bike Challenge, which encourages people to use their bikes for commuting and running errands during National Bike Month.

The next task force meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. May 3 at the Medina County Administration Building.

Tim adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

