

Medina County Bicycle Transportation Task Force
A.K.A Bike Medina County
Dec. 5, 2019
Medina County District Library

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Secretary John Gladden (Medina County Park District), Mara and Roger Hornstrom, Bill Kendall, Second Vice President Lynne Nawalaniec (Century Cycles), Tony Ratajczak (NOACA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Medina County representative), Tom Ries (Friends of Wadsworth Trails), President Beth Schnabel, First Vice President Tim Smith, Treasurer Suzanne Swain (Friends of Medina County Parks), Sue and John Watkins

Call to Order

Beth called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She welcomed local cycling advocates Sue and John Watkins. John expressed his interest in building and connecting trails in Medina County. Beth asked John to mark his ideas on a map for future discussion, particularly if the park district is successful in its NOACA Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative planning grant request to fund the development of a countywide master plan for trails.

Approval of Minutes

Tony moved to approve the minutes from the Nov. 7 meeting. Roger seconded. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Suzanne reported an account balance of \$5,822 as of Nov. 25 with no outstanding bills.

Old Business

John Gladden reported last month's discussion with Medina County Transit Director Shannon Rine was productive. John reached out to him following the meeting on coordinating a possible joint outreach during bike month in May -- including creating advertising placards for transit buses. Shannon said he would be in touch.

Suzanne will submit Bike Medina County's membership application and payment to Ohio Bicycle Federation in January, so that BMC's membership will coincide with the calendar year.

John Gladden said there is no news on the park district's NOACA TLCI planning grant application. Results will be announced in the spring.

Beth reported the Medina County Highway Department donated used signposts for Homer Township's 3-foot-rule signs. Beth and Charles cleaned and painted the posts before delivering them. With that, all 160-plus signs should be up around Medina County.

Beth said she has not yet received an answer from OBF as to whether the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles' driver's license training and testing materials contain information for new drivers regarding Ohio's 3-foot-passing rule.

New Business

Beth proposed two options for a 2020 meeting schedule. Option A consisted of three meetings of local officials in February, May and August, plus nine public meetings in the alternate months. Option B consisted of two meetings for officials in February and either May or August, plus 10 public meetings in the alternate months. All would be daytime meetings. Lynne moved in favor of Option A. Suzanne seconded. There was additional discussion regarding how to go about inviting public officials. John Gladden stressed the need to work with them on dates and agendas, rather than simply handing them information and expecting them to attend. Beth said no matter when the meeting dates are, the likelihood is some will be able to attend on a given date and some will not. Tim noted the need to get on their calendars as soon as possible. Tony suggested that a proposed first meeting date of Feb. 6 may be too soon and additional lead time might be needed. Lynne said some flexibility could be required. Beth offered to contact Medina Parks Director Jansen Wehrley to ask his opinion. John Watkins pointed out the potential approval of the NOACA TLCI grant this spring

could be a good entry point for inviting local officials to discuss bicycle-pedestrian issues. Lynne cautioned that the later we wait to book everyone's schedules, the busier they will be when warm weather returns. Beth called for a vote on adopting Option A. All voted no. The motion failed. Mara made a new motion to adopt Option A, but to be flexible on the date of the first public meeting. Sue seconded. The motion was approved 7-1. Lynne suggested using BMC's next meeting in January to discuss how best to organize the meetings for officials.

Beth invited members to prepare their "wishlists" for budget discussions in January. Her list includes a new display board for public events (which has already been approved) and printed bike safety materials to hand out to the public. Beth shared a safety booklet she picked up in Wisconsin. Lynne said OBF may have ready-made publications available to order. She will investigate. Beth asked if it would be possible to put BMC's name on OBF materials. Lynne suggested it could be done with a stamp or sticker.

Beth asked if a cost had been determined for bike rack installation at participating businesses. Tony noted that BMC first needs to reach out to businesses to engage them in discussion. That is made difficult when the manager is not the owner or landlord and isn't authorized to approve installation of a bike rack. For example, Tony has talked to managers at the Medina Panera multiple times about installing a rack, but only the corporate office can make that decision. Beth suggested targeting a couple of businesses where the owners might be accessible and amenable to a bike rack and then build that cost into the 2020 budget. Tim suggested creating a promotion in which BMC approaches businesses and tells them they are one of five (or whatever number is budgeted for) businesses that have been selected for free bike rack installation. Tony said he would work on that. John Gladden said he would help.

Tim left the meeting at approximately 7 p.m.

Lynne gave a brief report on the 2019 Lake to Lake Harvest Tour, which brought in approximately \$1,800 after expenses. She has thank-you letters available for members to send to donors.

New Business

John Watkins said he plans to attend an upcoming conference of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition in Pittsburgh. The group's mission is to support building and connecting trails in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The coalition is eager to connect with trail groups in those states and emphasizes the positive impact of trails on local economic development. John said he would be happy to report back to BMC after the conference.

Beth shared information about a recent excursion she and Charles enjoyed on the 32.5-mile Elroy-Sparta State Trail in Wisconsin, considered to be the nation's first rail-to-trail project.

Bill Kendall arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Tom reported Wadsworth has completed the paving of the 2.5-mile Interurban Trail. The city's goal is to work with utility companies and the city of Norton to eventually connect it with the Towpath Trail. No specific timeline has been established.

Beth reported speaking with Dr. John Surso of Summa Health Medina Medical Center. Summa is excited about partnering with the park district on a trail that would cross the medical campus and the future Chandler Nature Preserve to connect the Lake Medina Trail with East Smith Road. John Gladden said the planning process is ongoing and the park district has received state capital budget funding for the project.

Adjournment

With no other business before the committee, Mara moved to adjourn. Tony seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

2020 Meeting Schedule

Public meetings are scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the Medina County Administration Building. Dates for 2020 are: Jan. 2, March 5, April 2, June 4, July 2, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3. Meetings for public officials are scheduled for: Feb. 6 (this date is flexible), May 7 and Aug. 6.