

**Medina County Bicycle Transportation Task Force
A.K.A Bike Medina County
Oct. 3, 2019
Medina County Administration Building**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

John Gladden (Medina County Park District), Tony Ratajczak (NOACA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Medina County representative), Tom Ries (Friends of Wadsworth Trails), President Beth Schnabel, Pete Smakula (owner of Electric Pete's E-Bikes in Akron and a Medina County resident), First Vice President Tim Smith.

Second Vice President Lynne Nawalaniec and Treasurer Suzanne Swain notified Beth they would be unable to attend.

Call to Order

Tim called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Sept. 5 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Beth shared a report emailed from Suzanne. A deposit of \$1,035 was made from funds collected at the L2L Tour. A payment of \$982.50 was made for L2L T-shirts. There are no other bills outstanding. The bank balance stands at \$4,566.91.

Old Business

John spoke with Medina County Public Transit Director Shannon Rine and invited him to a future meeting to discuss ways the public transit system and BMC could work together. John reported Shannon is eager to collaborate and hopes to attend the Nov. 7 meeting. He will confirm with John as the date draws closer.

Tim obtained a donation of 20 yard signs that can be reused from year to year to promote the L2L Tour. He will work on the potential purchase or donation of another batch of signs. He would like to have them redesigned to make the words "bike tour" more prominent. Those who took signs for placement should return them to Tim for storage and updating with the 2020 ride date.

John reported Medina County Park District Director Nate Eppink hopes to see the planned trail from state Route 18 to East Smith Road across the Summa Health campus and the Chandler Wildlife Sanctuary come to fruition within the next two to three years. Tony noted the traffic signal at the Summa entrance is not conducive to cyclists or pedestrians crossing the highway and will need to be addressed.

New Business

Beth offered an update on the distribution of the remaining 3-foot-rule signs. Homer Township initially asked for six, but other municipalities had also requested additional signs for high-traffic locations. As a consequence, Homer Township received two of the new signs, plus two of the older, smaller signs Beth obtained from Medina. The township may need assistance in funding posts for the signs. Beth will research options and report back.

Tony believes the design of the new 3-foot-rule signs is not as easily understood as other design options. Tony also recommended BMC examine the driver's license training and testing materials used by the state to see if they

include information pertaining to how motorists should safely pass cyclists on the road. Ohio Bicycle Federation may be a resource. Beth will investigate.

Volunteer slots for the BMC information table on the Oct. 12-13 Medina County Fall Foliage Tour are filled.

Beth initiated discussion of BMC's 2020 meeting schedule. She suggested board meetings could be held in the odd months and public meetings could be held in the even months.

John suggested establishing twice yearly or quarterly meetings for "decision-makers" -- such as city and county park directors, elected officials, and other agency directors. It would be beneficial if those high-level leaders could meet on a regular basis to share news and coordinate projects. BMC board members could attend in an advising and supporting role. Other meetings of BMC members could be scheduled as needed for BMC projects. Perhaps a meeting for the overall group in the even months and committee meetings in the odd months. Beth will seek input from Medina Parks Director Jansen Wehrley. The discussion was tabled until November.

Tim left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Beth read BMC's letter of support for a NOACA Transportation for Liveable Communities Initiative grant request to be submitted by park district Director Nate Eppink. Funding would be used to create an updated plan for establishing and connecting multi-use trails in Medina County. Tony noted the TLCI grant is comprised of federal dollars that are divided into two pots -- one for planning, one for implementation. If you get the planning grant, it gets you in line for the implementation grant, which is highly competitive for a relatively small amount of money. Tony observed the last countywide trail plan did not prove useful. He does not have a lot of faith in the work of outside consultants. Tony believes the knowledge for planning a network of trails already exists within Medina County and in BMC. He also questioned who would author the statement of work for the consultant. Beth and Tony both shared their hope BMC would have a seat at the planning table, should the grant application be successful. John said if the grant request is not successful, perhaps BMC could convene a group to do the work Tony describes, using the previous plan as a springboard and eliminating any elements that were unworkable.

Beth again noted the lack of response from Wadsworth regarding the offer of 3-foot-rule signs. She asked Tom if he could provide a list of contacts who might be able to initiate some action or who would at least be interested in meeting with BMC. Tom agreed.

Committee Reports

It was noted the L2L Tour was a success and received good news media coverage. The group will look forward to Lynne's report on the ride at a future meeting.

Tom reported an additional section of the 2.5-mile Interurban Trail in Wadsworth that is currently crushed limestone is scheduled for paving. Beth asked Tom if he would invite other members of Wadsworth Friends of the Trails to BMC meetings. Tom said that he would.

Regarding future meetings, Beth observed that township officials prefer evening meetings, since they typically work other jobs during the day, while full-time city and county employees prefer meeting during the workday. Pete added that for evening meetings 7 p.m. is preferable to 6 p.m. for those who work. Beth noted the Medina Library closes at 7 p.m., so BMC would have to find a different evening meeting site. Tony recommended the River Styx Buehler's Community Room, which BMC has used before. Pete said he will check on the meeting space at Austin Badger Park. John added that he likely could arrange meeting space at a park district site, if needed.

Adjournment

At 12:37 p.m., Tony moved to adjourn. Tom seconded. All voted in favor.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 7 at the Medina County Administration Building.