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Minutes, July, 2005

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for July 11, 2005

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, and Ted Packard. Others present were Doug Greenfield and Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

*We approved the minutes for the May and June meetings.

Update on MAPC planning meeting, including local bicycle/pedestrian plan. Joey told us that she attended this meeting. MAPC presented the outline of their forthcoming bicycle/pedestrian plan.

The meeting was attended by about 25 people representing area communities.

This was a preliminary meeting, and there is hope that the process will expand into a more regional approach. Jack reminded us that MassBike is also working on regional bicycle path/route connections and that this process does mean that bicycles and pedestrians are on the State's radar screen.

Planning for ABAC booth at Arlington Town Day event, scheduled for Sept 17.

Jack told us that he has a space in front of the Library but Joey told us there is a possible plan to put Town organizations in the Public Garden. We didn't like this plan, because it could reduce foot traffic.

We will sell bike maps, pocket rides, Car Free in Boston, and Street Smarts.

Doug suggested a raffle/giveaway. We thought of giving free tune-ups at the local bike shops. Jack suggested asking for comments on the other side of the giveaway tickets. Joey suggested an "ask us about" list. Doug thought we should also give away bike bells to attract a more youthful age group. Stephan, Christopher, Ron Ted, and Parris volunteered to man the booth. We decided that we need fewer people (2-3) behind the table at any one time than we have had in past years.

Updates on bikeway projects in Arlington Center: new stencils and signs coming soon. Scott informed us that there's a lot going on. The Bikeway signs to be posted in the Center are at the printers. One will be posted in the small park in front of Carberry's, and the other will be posted behind the Uncle Sam park. The final stencils on the sidewalk will be twice as large as the prototypes. Scott also handed out a list of suggestions (four different alternatives) for bicycle accommodations at the Route 60/Mass Ave intersection.

We should take counts of the bike/pedestrian users of the intersection in Arlington Center. Scott told us that the Vision 2020 questionnaire indicated that bicyclists are substantially less happy with this intersection than pedestrians or drivers. He gave us a number of alternatives for configuring the intersection.

Doug suggested that there be a bike-only crossing signal allowing bikes to cross diagonally. We discussed some of the alternatives and decided that the decision will require consultation with professionals and running some simulations.

Bicycling to school. Lauren Hefferon set up a meeting with the new School Superintendent. This meeting will take place in August, and Ted and Jack will also attend. Ted suggested that there are two major topics to be discussed: bicycling to school and bicycle education. Ted added that we should devise a handout for middle school students outlining suggestions and rules to aid bicycling to school.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

*denotes that a vote was taken.

The minutes were taken by Stephan Miller.