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Minutes, Feb. 2004

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for February 2, 2004

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Christopher Tonkin, Ron Sender, Ted Packard, and Stephan Miller. Others present were Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Joey Glushko, Joe Snodgrass, Mat Mendel, and Dan O'Connell. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Local bicycle conversations. Joe told us about the article in the Globe about the proposed connection of bicycle paths in and round Arlington.

*The January 5 meeting minutes were accepted with a few spelling corrections. Update on the last Open Space Committee meeting. Joey is working on a management plan for the bike path, which will be part of the Arlington Management Plan for Major Arlington Open Space and Recreation Sites. A chart of bikeway maintenance tasks and their scheduling is included in the plan. The DPW has said that they don't have resources to fulfill many of these tasks. Joey suggested creating a subgroup called The Friends of the Bikeway to help take care of the path by doing the more routine maintenance tasks that the DPW cannot handle. Stephan, Ron, and Joey are interested in helping to form such a subcommittee.

Final plans for ABAC Winter Social. Jack discussed the plans and we designated who should be where when.

Alternative Transportation Fair. The tentative date for the fair is May 16 (looking firm). The Recreation Department has approved our use of the Recreation Center from 8:30 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon. Scott is arranging the finances to pay for the fees. Joey asked if we could arrange for bicycle parking. There will be information tables in the concourse and a bicycle rodeo will be held on the rink.

We discussed who we should invite. Some suggestions were other organizations such as the MBTA, Sustainable Arlington, Arlington Schools, the Board of Health, ZipCar, Caravan Commuting, Safe Routes to School, MassBike, and Quad Cycles (and other bicycle shops). We also discussed whether we should invite commercial organizations and if we do, how we should handle them. We defined the core groups as ABAC, TAC and Walking in Arlington. There will be walking tours (probably in the morning) as well as the Bike Arlington Tour. Jack suggested a raffle or door prizes be given to draw people in. We created a Fair-planning subcommittee consisting of Scott, Jack, Mat and Elisabeth. The bike rodeo portion of the event will be planned by Ted, Ron and Christopher.

ABAC TV production. Ted told us that four people have been trained in techniques used in making videos outdoors. Future workshops will teach studio techniques and editing. Jack offered to group our suggestions of topics made several months ago into rough categories.

Inventory of ABAC projects and their status. Jack volunteered to assemble an exhaustive list. The list will include The Bike Arlington Tour, Alternative Transportation Fair, Town Day table, road projects (2A, East Arlington, Arlington Center), bicycle parking, Bikeway maintenance, winter social, education program (in schools), library materials (central and elementary), Arlington Center crossing, relations with other bike committees and MassBike, liaison to other towns along the Bikeway, MDC bikeways, cable TV show, regional bikeway connections and Town Meeting warrant review.

Other topics. Scott told us about two Town Meeting warrant articles, one concerning another sidewalk on the Park Ave. bridge and the other a proposed light at Mass. Ave. and Library Way. Jack mentioned some upcoming events such as the National Bike Summit.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:23.