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Minutes, June2004

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for June 7, 2004.

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Ted Packard, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith, and Christopher Tonkin. Others present were Joey Glushko, Carol Jackson, Parris Kellerman, and Joe Snodgrass.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

Conversations about bicycling: Carol introduced herself and told us about the State's anti-obesity health program. Ted told us about the bike safety rodeo that he ran at the Brackett School.

*The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted with two corrections.

Feedback on BIKE-Arlington Tour and The Alternative Transportation Festival. Scott told us that when it started to rain, we should have pushed on and postponed the talks until the end of the ride. He also suggested that a bullhorn would make it easier to hear the speakers.

Jack commented that it was hard to put on the Festival and the Tour on the same day. He suggested that next year they could be separate events. Scott thought it would be more efficient to disseminate alternative transportation information at different venues. We all agreed that the weather had a definite negative effect on attendance. Another idea was to couple the Festival with another existing event.

Ron asked how many attended the Festival who weren't on the Tour or the walk in the morning. Paris suggested that we have more food next time. Scott was asked about finances. Christopher thought that, next year, we should emphasize the bike rodeo over everything else.

Update on possible pathway projects. Scott explained that Anne Lusk of the Harvard School of Public Health will be working on several small immediate projects having, in general, to do with increasing the amount of exercise people get and in particular, with the Bike Path. He presented a list of possible projects.

1. Mass. Ave. bikeway crossing. Scott proposed several low cost solutions for the Mass. Ave. crossing of the bikeway. The most popular with the committee was to improve signage and street and sidewalk marking. There would be two signs, one on either end and appropriate markings on the road and sidewalk to connect them. The signs would include maps outlining the recommended paths (riding on road or walking on sidewalk). The signs would include maps outlining the recommended path.
2. Park Ave. Bridge. We discussed the debate on whether a pedestrian walk can be added on the other side of the bridge.
3. Court St. Place. There are currently no sidewalks on either side.
4. Safe Routes to School. Marking routes with stencils on sidewalks.
5. Alewife Station. Improve the connections to other paths in the area. Improve access for both bicyclists and pedestrians.

Updates on Bikeway issues:

Bikeway maintenance. Meet Saturday, June 12, at 10 am at the Gold's Gym parking lot for Heights cleanup.

Linear Path. MassHighway is making improvements in this path and improving connections to other paths in the area. There is some controversy as to what organization will design the Mass Ave. crossing.

Bow St. ramp. Security Fence will be adjusting their gate so that the new ramp and landscaping can be installed.

Bikeway repaving. Lexington will be repaving their portion of the Bikeway sometime this summer. Also this summer, the path will be repaved under the new Rt. 2 bridge in East Arlington.

ACTION ITEM: Ron will finish the survey of the dropoffs along the central portion of the Bikeway.

Bicycling and Schools. Ted told us that his son has been forbidden to ride his bike to the Brackett School. The reasons given by the Principal were 1) no place to store the

bike, 2) The school does not want to be responsible for the bikes and 3) it is not safe. Ted believes that this is an issue for the parents to decide, not the schools. Carol told us about how her department (State department of Public Health) is trying to promote biking and walking to school. Ted feels that this needs to be a Town-wide change in policy. He would like to see ABAC provide a letter to the School Committee supporting the clarification of the Town's policy about students riding to school. Jack proposed forming a subcommittee to figure out a strategy for promoting this issue. Carol, Jack, Ron, Ted, Parris, Christopher, and Joey volunteered for the subcommittee.

Bike parking brochure. Jack proposed developing a bike parking brochure for businesses and organizations in Town that might wish to install bicycle parking. The brochure could include types of parking, manufacturers of racks and advice on where and how to install, including existing town bylaws.

ACTION ITEM: Carol will check to see whether there are other towns that have produced such a brochure.

Jack mentioned that Arlington has no current guidelines for installing bike parking on municipal property (e.g., sidewalks). He suggested that we address this issue as well.

Town Day. Town Day this year is on September 11. Jack solicited ideas for our participation. One suggestion is that we provide bicycle parking of some kind. We discussed they way to do it and where to put it.

ACTION ITEM: Ted, Stephan, and Joey will work on providing bicycle parking at the Town Day event. We will discuss at the next ABAC meeting.

Bike Friendly Community. Can we have Arlington declared a bicycle friendly town? We will look at the web site to determine what the requirements are. Jack suggested that it would make a good goal for us to work towards.

Lastly, we reviewed the action items from last month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

1. Ron will finish the survey of the dropoffs along the central portion of the Bikeway.
2. Carol will check to see whether there are other town's have produced such a brochure.
3. We will continue to discuss Town Day bicycle parking at the next meeting.