

Elm City Cycling General Meeting
Minutes
February 11, 2008

6:00 p.m.

1. Reports and Updates from Subcommittees

A. Incorporation Subcommittee

- a. Committee will reconvene on February 18th, 2008
- b. Proposed first orders of business are creation of mission statement and an outline of questions to ask a lawyer regarding the benefits of, and procedure for incorporation and liability issues, especially as they relate to ride-leaders and official ECC events.
- c. Mark Abraham raised the possibility of partnerships with existing non-profits which might allow us to purchase liability insurance.
- d. Grace Johnston has a possible contact with a lawyer who might be able to help with incorporation.
- e. John Mills, a local attorney, is on the ECC list and has also expressed a willingness to help pro bono.

B. LAB Accreditation Initiative

- a. Deadline for LAB application is in mid-March.
- b. The City Transportation Dept has assigned an intern to work with this committee .
- c. All municipal and university police departments and the City plan department are responding to requests for information.
- d. This committee will produce an official document which will have the answers to all bike-related questions, and will set a benchmark for future improvements to each.

C. Bike Plan Subcommittee

- a. This committee meets monthly and is continuing to work on implementing the city's 50 page bike plan.
- b. Some progress has been made by City government since the plan was adopted in 2004.
- c. The identified next step is to reestablish oversight and monitoring, by essentially reconvening the "Share the Streets" / "Go-altion" to work on all elements of the plan.
- d. Yale Issues: the committee is working on improving bicycle access to Science Hill, especially with the impending construction of the Yale Biology Building. See BPS February minutes for specific additional details.

D. Traffic Enforcement Subcommittee

- a. Met on February 4, 2008 for first time.
- b. Recapped what has been done so far; revisited previous contacts within City government and the police department. One pressing question is whether Sgt. Bernie Somers is still the official contact at NHPD.
- c. Hunter Smith drafted and sent a letter to the NHPD asking that in their search for a new police chief, they actively seek a candidate with a commitment to cycling safety and that this person creates a 'bicycle liaison.' About 45 ECC members signed the initial letter, which produced a response from the CAO's office. Our reply to that suggested 8 specific responsibilities for this proposed position. The Traffic Enforcement group will follow up on this letter.

E. ECC Neighborhood Initiative

- a. Many ECC members have been attending Community Management Team (CMT) meetings and identifying key people (influential aldermen, neighborhood leaders, etc), including Alderman Brison, who attended today's ECC meeting. This process is just beginning and will be formalized as much as possible, in order to encourage further coalition-building and information-sharing among the group.
- b. ECC members should made use of the City's new Web 311 service to report potholes and other unsafe road conditions, and report back to group if action is not taken. According to Alderman Brison, the system has been operational for just a couple of months.

2. Ride Leader Responsibilities and Liability Issues

- a. There was some discussion about how well ECC was insulated by signed waivers from liability.
- b. There was also some debate about whether rides such as the Sunday group ride which typically leaves from Lulu Coffee Shop would create a liability problem for ECC since it is advertised on our website. ECC agreed as a group to make clear that rides such as the "Lulu's Ride" and Critical Mass are not ECC-sponsored events, even though ECC members may participate in some of them from time to time.
- c. We need to clarify what type of liability umbrella Arts & Ideas will provide for the summer bike tours.
- d. We should also investigate what other clubs do to protect themselves against liability on group rides.

3. Preference Regarding ECC Communications and Minutes

- a. Suggested minimum format for meeting minutes: bulleted lists of items discussed and actions to be taken.
- b. minutes should be prepared by committee chair or other designated member.
- c. They can be submitted as a plain-text (TXT) document to either Bill Kurtz or Mark Abraham for posting to the website. Plain TXT files should be formatted in MSWord or a similar program so that line breaks are created.

4. Other Business

- a. Congratulations to Devil's Gear Bike Shop owner Matt Feiner on the imminent opening of his new downtown location on Audubon Street.
- b. "Green Drinks" event-an ecologically-oriented happy hour will be held on Wednesday, 2/20 from 6-7:30 at Anna Liffey's.
- c. It was suggested that ECC either run a workshop or create a page on the website with tips on how to hold a successful outreach event.
- d. ECC members support this year's CCBA legislative agenda. 2/13 is the date for the legislative lobbying day at the State capitol, and ECC representatives are planning to attend or otherwise show their support.