

WBWC

December 2015 Board Meeting

December 10, 2015, 6:45 p.m.

The Ecology Center, 339 E. Liberty, Suite 339, Ann Arbor, MI

FINAL MINUTES

Call to Order:

Pete called the meeting to order at:	18:59
Board Members Present:	Peter Houk Bob Krzewinski Robert Gordon Larry Deck Barbara Lucas Markus Nee
Board Members Absent:	Erica Briggs
Board Members Added:	Tracy Beeson
Audience:	David Shinabarger Valerie Shinabarger Linda Diane Feldt Reena Liberman Brandon Patterson Eric Lipson Nate Phipps Jeff Gaynor Craig Lyon

Adoption of Agenda:

Larry moved to adopt the agenda. Bob seconded. **Motion passed 6-0. Agenda adopted.**

Communication from the Chair:

1. Pete reviewed the WBWC's mission statement.
2. Pete proposed scheduling the annual WBWC goal-setting retreat on Saturday, January 9, 2016 from 10am to 3pm at The Ecology Center. The Board accepted the proposal.

Secretary's Report:

1. October Minutes - Robert moved to approve the October 2015 Board meeting minutes, with one spelling correction. Larry seconded. **Motion passed 6-0, October 2015 Minutes approved.**
2. November Minutes - Larry moved to approve the November 2015 Executive Board minutes and Annual Membership Meeting minutes. Robert seconded. **Motion passed 6-0, November 2015 Minutes approved.**
3. Calendar - Bob reviewed the upcoming events on the WBWC calendar. Winter newsletter articles are due January 1, 2016. WBWC web domain needs to be renewed March 2016.

Nominating Committee:

1. New Board member - Pete nominated Tracy Beeson to the Board. Robert moved to nominate, Markus seconded. **Motion passed 6-0, Tracy Beeson appointed to the WBWC Board.**
2. Selection of 2016 officers - Pete proposed the following officer positions for 2016.
 - a. **Larry Deck - vice chair**
 - b. **Robert Gordon - treasurer**
 - c. **Markus Nee - secretary**
 - d. **Peter Houk - Board chair**Bob moved to approve the slate of officers. Tracy seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

New Topics:

1. **Formation of a Transportation Commission in Ann Arbor -**
 - a. Linda Diane Feldt gave a presentation on the proposed formation of a City of Ann Arbor commission to cover bicycling and walking issues. Linda Diane reported that Eli Cooper recommended that such a commission should cover all transportation for funding purposes. To make sure there is a clear focus on non-motorized transportation, Linda Diane recommends writing the Charter to include a holistic focus to act on reports, studies, plans, and task force findings related to pedestrian and bicycling safety. Linda Diane will forward the working draft to the WBWC. Larry added that East Lansing has a transportation commission that has been successful, and it would be good to meet with them. Peter suggested that WBWC's involvement in creating this commission could be a 2016 goal for the WBWC Government Relations Committee.
2. **Snow removal ordinance -**
 - a. Interest was shown in a "snow tour" in Ann Arbor to point out problems after the next heavy snow. Bob will look into resurrecting the WBWC "snow page" which contained sidewalk snow removal ordinances from across the County. Further discussion tabled to the next meeting when Erica is in attendance.

3. Recent cyclist fatalities -

- a. City response - Discussion on seeing how the City is going to respond, and how this will work into the recently adopted Vision Zero. WBWC would like to see some sort of analysis and direct response come out of these recent incidents.

Nate Phipps asked if there is an incident map available. Bob said that there is one from SEMCOG, and will send the link to the WBWC Google Group. Nate suggested the WBWC host a web widget that would show the SEMCOG incident map for Washtenaw County, as well as a moderated self-reporting feature for near-miss incidents (to proactively look for trouble spots before incidents happen).

Bob asked if there will be any changes in police enforcement of bicycle lights and reflectors. Linda Diane said that the City Council would need to specifically direct the police to make this a priority.

- b. Night-time visibility effort - Discussion on efforts by Get Downtown and City Council to provide lights to bicycle commuters. This was considered a good first step, but not the only solution. There has to be further action.

David Shinabarger suggested having a formal response from WBWC whenever there is an incident, to counter sensational news stories. It could be a blog entry that describes the incident, person involved, and non-biased facts. Dave shared his experience working at MLive to describe how these stories affect the process of: Awareness > Engagement > Conversion > Advocacy. There is a need to provide direct next steps to educate the public on what they can do to avoid this and to not be discouraged from participating in alternative transportation.

Nate Phipps suggested that direct next steps could be a safe riding class for the public. Barbara offered to tape a 15 minute CTN television show on this. Bob suggested evening group rides. Nate also suggested a bike buddies program to pair an experienced cyclist with a new cyclist to show them how to ride safely. There is also a LAB program for certified bike safety instructors. Pete invited Nate to the WBWC January retreat meeting to work on these suggestions, as well as increase collaboration with Common Cycle, particularly at events such as the Mayor's Green Fair, Leslie Science Center Earth Day, Bike to Work Week, International Parking Spot Day.

Discussion also included ways to make cyclists more visible (active lighting on bikes, more than just reflectors, and better street lighting) and outreach for students via U of M.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Robert reported that there is \$8328.75 in the Bank of Ann Arbor account and \$886.01 in the Paypal account, for a total of \$9214.76. Larry moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Bob seconded.
Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer's Report accepted.

Government Relations Committee:

1. Upcoming council topics - Robert reported that the new City Council members are very good to work with, and expects very positive interaction in the future.
2. 85th Percentile position statement - Barbara reported on the recent meeting with Rebekah Warren and the proposed State legislation to raise speed limits to the 85th percentile.

Peter read the latest draft of the WBWC's 85th percentile position statement.

Bob moved to accept the document. Markus seconded. **Motion passed unanimously. WBWC's 85th percentile position statement document approved.** The position statement will be used in a press release and will also be sent to area legislators.

Communications Committee:

1. Newspaper deadline - Bob reported that the deadline for the newsletter is January 1, 2016. He will send out a list of newsletter article topics. Bob reported that Facebook likes have increased from 426 to 511 this year. Bob will work with Markus to populate the calendar for next year and to renew the web domain. Bob will work with Robert to renew the insurance policy. As this will be the first newsletter without Todd, David Shinabarger offered to help Bob format the newsletter for Mailchimp distribution.

Membership Committee:

1. Membership letter and card mailing process - tabled to next meeting when Erica is in attendance.
2. Tracy will assist Erica on the Committee.

Projects Committee:

1. Current Projects update -
 - a. Larry sent out maps and suggestions for Border to Border Trail projects and PROS Plan, and is looking for comments.
 - b. Prospect Road is getting repaved this year and the desire to see wider shoulders included was discussed.
 - c. Discussion of the Nixon Road developments meeting.
 - d. Pittsfield Township planning effort - trail on Platt Road, Ann Arbor-Saline Road/I-94 interchange, master plan and parks plan.

2. Stadium/Edgewood - Eric Lipson presented the issue regarding the exit and entrance to Pioneer High School. Stadium Blvd is scheduled to be repaved between Main Street and Seventh. Currently, there are two lanes in each direction with no left turn lane, and a poorly marked crosswalk. Eric has tried to get the School Board to grant easement to the City to widen Stadium to include a refuge island. Eric requested that the WBWC help advocate for Rapid Flashing Beacon, overhead crosswalk lights, refuge island, left turn lane.

Education Committee:

1. Barbara gave a report on current topics -
 - a. Barbara indicated that the Ann Arbor Community Television Green Room broadcast of Erica talking about the Vision Zero drive is playing now, and also on the CTN website (links will be posted on the WBWC Facebook and web pages). Future episodes will include talks with Bob and Larry, and with Nate.
 - b. Barbara talked about including non-motorized information in the orientation materials for new University of Michigan students
 - c. The University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment has received from WBWC a proposal for a master's project on Lower Town redevelopment, making it more cyclist and pedestrian friendly. Barbara reported that Jonathan Levine will assist with the project, should it be accepted.

Adjournment:

Larry moved to adjourn. Bob seconded. **Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 21:26.**

The next meeting will be the WBWC annual retreat on Saturday, January 9, 2016, 10am at the Ecology Center.