

WBWC Board Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2015

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

Board Members Attending: Erica Briggs, Larry Deck, Robert Gordon, Peter Houk, Bob Krzewinski, Barbara Lucas.

Board Members Absent: Karen Moorhead, Lloyd Shelton.

1. Call to order – The meeting was brought to order at 7:00pm.
2. Adoption of agenda – Added to the agenda were Ann Arbor Summer Festival/Top Of The Park, new County bicycle map, additions to WBWC project priorities and approval of WBWC statements on the Fleming Creek Trail, ReImagine Washtenaw and an Iron Belle Trail grant support letter. A motion was made by Erica, seconded by Robert, to approve the agenda, passing unanimously.
3. Communication From The Chair – Pete reviewed the WBWC mission statement and reconfirmed upcoming meetings/events (next Board meeting – June 24, Ann Arbor Green Fair with WBWC participation – June 12). A discussion was held on the WBWC Strategic Plan, with Pete adding in to the master document (available on WBWC Google Docs) suggestions given at the meeting. These suggestions included a “0 Pedestrian/Cyclists Deaths” campaign, platinum Ann Arbor Bike Friendly Community status, Washtenaw County Road Commission adopting its own Complete Streets policy (in addition to the WATS policy), a billboard campaign and volunteer recruitment. Pete also urged the Board members to review the Strategic Plan document online and give further input.
4. Secretary’s Report – With one correction, a motion was made by Larry, seconded by Barbara, to approve the April minutes, passing unanimously. Bob indicated there were no new updates on file repositories, records retention and the “action required calendar.
5. Communications Committee Report – Bob gave a report on the status of the new www.wix.com based web page with attempts being made to retain the original web page “in storage” when the Wix-based website goes public. Bob also reported on problems accessing the WBWC account on the web domain provider (GoDaddy) but is working through the situation (renewal of www.wbwc.org is not due until March 2016). For the newsletter, the next deadline (for the Summer edition) will be July 1st with reminder messages going out to the Board, well prior to the deadline, to submit articles.
6. Treasurers Report – Robert reported \$6516.14 in the Bank Of Ann Arbor, and another \$940.56 in PayPal for a total of \$7456.70. The matter of who can write checks out of the WBWC checking account was discussed with current language allowing only the Chair. Pete and Robert will work on language to amend the by-laws to also allow the Treasurer to write checks. Robert reported the WBWC Federal tax statement was filed on time for 2014 and no further news on problems with the 2013 Federal taxes. Robert will also work on obtaining a checking account debit card from the Bank of Ann Arbor for online purchases. Bob requested a reimbursement for a \$49 payment to Wix for a one year web site contract. It was also reported that the Michigan Non-Profit Corporation renewal is due August 1st. A motion was made by Larry, seconded by Bob, to accept the Treasurers report, passing unanimously.
7. Membership Report – Erica reported that she confirmed the June 12th Ann Arbor Green Fair WBWC display space is free as the group will be providing a service (valet bike parking). Erica will have a full selection of handouts for the Green Fair too. On the Ann Arbor Top Of The Park/Summer Festival, the event organizers would like to have the WBWC run valet bike parking on “bike nights” (June 16, 23, 30) from 5pm to 11:30pm (4:30pm setup) and they would provide 2-4 volunteers. After discussion, it was agreed that the WBWC will do the Top Of The Park valet parking with Erica sending out a Doodle calendar for volunteers to sign up. Bob will work on a new smaller WBWC banner (6’ x 2’) and send designs on to Erica. A new higher resolution WBWC logo is needed and Erica will ask Todd Marsee about this. For the WBWC at Huron River Day (July 12) Erica will coordinate. Also a motion was made by Larry, seconded by Pete, to allocate \$210 for bike valet supplies, passing unanimously.

8. Projects Committee Report – A motion was made by Pete, seconded by Bob, and passing unanimously to approve provisional approval (pending minor editing) for three letters on behalf of the WBWC with these being a) supporting a request by the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission to the DNR for an Iron Belle/Border To Border Trail grant, b) urging the Ann Arbor City Council to support ReImagine Washtenaw and c) asking the University of Michigan Regents to insure steps are taken for funding of the Fleming Creek pathway. A motion was also made by Larry, seconded by Bob, passing unanimously, to make the Fleming Creek Trail, and the corridor along Jackson from Maple to Wagner (to investigate a better way to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians on this stretch), as WBWC project priorities. Larry also gave short updates on the proposed new Ann Arbor train station, new bicycle maps and the Ann Arbor Parks Plan update. Pete indicated he would attend the Ann Arbor City Council meeting on June 1st representing the WBWC to speak in favor of the ReImagine Washtenaw planning project.

9. Government Relations Committee – Robert reported on a State level, that rumors that a Legislator proposed legislation to repeal State of Michigan Complete Streets legislation were untrue as the Legislator had only proposed legislation to dissolve the State Complete Streets Advisory Council which is currently bound by law to continue meeting. There are also rumors in Lansing of the repeal of Act 51 (which states that a minimum of one per cent of Michigan Transportation Funds distributed to the state, counties and cities must be used for non-motorized transportation facilities). On a more local level, Erica and Pete will work together to put more pressure on the City of Ann Arbor to improve safety in pedestrian hot spots and involve the University of Michigan where appropriate (i.e. Fuller Road). Erica will also reach out to Ann Arbor City Council members on 25mph speed limits in residential areas.

10. Education Committee – Barbara discussed a number of education initiatives she is working on including...

- A River Hop (festival in the "River District" neighborhoods of northeast Ann Arbor within a few miles of the Broadway Bridge) Border To Border Trail bike trip will take place on August 29 & 30.
- Ann Arbor Community Television show on the Border To Border Trail will be taped in mid-July.
- A used bike "re-use" program was discussed using primarily bikes turned in to the Ann Arbor Re-Use Center with Barbara and Erica facilitating a meeting with other groups on this.
- A pedestrian/bicyclist billboard safety program was discussed with a suggestion that this be a part of the WBWC Strategic Plan.
- Barbara suggested other possible items for the WBWC Strategic Plan being a "Vision 0" (pedestrian/cyclist 0 deaths) campaign and Ann Arbor platinum Bike Friendly Community status.

11. Nominating Committee – Pete reported he is reaching out to other potential volunteers and that Board openings for the WBWC are now listed on the NEW Center website (http://www.new.org/board_member_directory). For the November annual membership meeting, potential speakers were discussed, including State Representative Jeff Irwin.

12. New Business – A short report was given on the meeting Bob and Larry had with Karen Sikkenga Associate Director of Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum, about the proposed Fleming Creek path. Erica and Pete will also continue to work on ways to involve new members and find additional Board members.

13. Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Pete, seconded by Bob, passing unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29pm with the next WBWC Board meeting taking place on Wednesday, June 24th, 7pm at The Ecology Center.