

Conway BPAB Meeting:

May 21, 2015 6:00 First United Methodist Church, Rm. 216.

Minutes (Prepared by Michael Yoder)

Board Members Present: Todd Ake, Jim Bruce, Jessica Henry Spayde, Amanda Potter Cole, Emily Walter, Michael Yoder

1. April Minutes: Item tabled until June Meeting.

2. SRTS Report (Emily). Bike to School Day was a big success, though principals held things up related to promotion of it. Coloring books and other promotional materials were distributed. Four of the six invited schools actually participated. Emily feels energized, and is confident that Walk to School Day will work well, too. Personnel at the schools remarked that they have never seen so many bicycles. Three suggestions were discussed. First, Crain automobile dealerships furnish bottles of water for events like this. Second, it would be better to get PE teachers to do bike rodeos in conjunction with this, with the blessing of the Superintendent as part of the accepted protocol. Third, it would be useful to get PTOs on board, who can work somewhat independently of the "chain of command" of the District.

3. Bicycle Education (Jim). Planned bike rodeo did not materialize because of rain, though the trailer was brought in. CAB is providing free instructional materials (@\$10 per person) for Traffic Skills 101 classes offered free to members of the Conway Police Department as well as other public employees. Parks and Recreation, the Fire Department, and others should be brought into bicycle education. However, there will be public offerings, too, which will cost \$20 for early-bird registration, and \$30 for regular registration, which includes the training manual. A Traffic Skills 101 course was provided in April by Jim and Peter for Women Bike Arkansas. The next course offerings will be October 15, 2015 and April 16, 2016, both Saturdays. Each will involve 3 hours of morning instruction, a break, and 3 hours of afternoon instruction. Members of BPAB can take it for free.

4. Bike-Walk Arkansas (Todd). This event occurs May 29, 2015. Todd secured the meeting room. This is a state coalition organization meeting. Without such a statewide organization, we get marked down by the League of American Bicyclists, according to Jim.

5. Bike Route Expansion and Signage. Although the Streets Department did not have a representative at this meeting, the Board reacted to an email from Jack Branscum regarding costs of signage. Amanda made a motion to ask City Council to allocate \$3,000.00 for the Intra-City Bike Route. Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. BPAB Communication (Amanda). Channel 7 out of Little Rock (ABC affiliate) did a news story on bicycle initiatives in Conway. A video link is provided on the BPAB web site. On April 21, Amanda made a presentation at CRC. People in attendance were receptive. Last Saturday Amanda held a booth at the Faulkner County Library's Backyard Urban Farming Project. It was not well attended because of rain. The suggestion arose that BPAB get involved with Ecofest on October 10. SPAM has been a problem with our web site, so the City will be asked to get involved to reduce it.

7. City Council Interaction. A special meeting of City Council related to Parks and

Recreation Department issues occurred on May 18. The meeting lasted some two hours. The Spirit Homes site issue came up (a proposed public pool complex). The Log Cabin Democrat ran an article on May 20 summarizing it. There was discussion at the meeting of connecting Tucker Creek Trail from College to Adamsbrook. It is estimated to cost \$400,000.00. The completion of Tucker Creek Trail was, thus, a top priority of the meeting. Another item of concern to BPAB was the overpass of Dave Ward to connect the UCA Nature Trail with the south side of the boulevard. The general consensus is that the special Parks Department Report meeting did not cover enough issues of importance to bicycling and pedestrianism, and that more needs to be done to get Council to prioritize such issues of importance to BPAB.

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:10.