

City of Norman Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes for June 2011 Meeting
June 13th, 2011 6:30 pm
City of Norman Municipal Complex
201 West Gray, Study Session Room

(1) Roll Call—6:37 p.m.

- Members present: John Joyce, Gary Miller, Sarah Reichardt, Helen Robertson, Tobin Vigil
- Ex-officio members present: James Briggs
- Guests: Marcus Smallwood (NPD).

(2) Approval of May 2011 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were accepted with one correction, that John ? of ACOG is John Sharp.

(3) Agenda

A. Review of Bike to Work Day (James)

In spite of inclement weather, Norman decided to have its rides. It went all right, and John won the bike! The mayor came by car, and spoke to James about her interest in having the participation of cyclists when the Rock Creek Bridge is officially opened. Gary said BLN members will be interested in participating.

B. City of Norman Update (Angelo, James, all)

James showed the signs stating Norman's bicycle friendly status that the city received from the League. There are two, but the city can order more (\$75 per sign up to ten, \$55 per sign for more than ten). Discussion centered on where to put them up—on Lindsey, Main, east on 9 as it comes into Norman, near campus. Forwarded to next month's agenda.

James also passed out the League's feedback on Norman's application, with suggestions for how to strengthen future applications (must re-apply for certification in four years). Some discussion of how to handle electric bicycles—should they be allowed on trails?

C. Norman Conquest Update (Gary)

Gary distributed maps of the routes for this year's ride, with Norman's League designation included on the maps. The Conquest will be July 16th. New police chief starts that month—Marcus mentioned that the NPD needs motorcycles for events like the Conquest, they'd be excellent for escorting cyclists (better than cars). NPD has no motorcycles.

D. Urban Trail System Update (Tobin)

Tobin said they're waiting on a venue, and James seconded that, saying they're in limbo until that question is resolved. James also passed out an email concerning a grant application for a trail system connecting state,

federal, and local recreational areas, maybe Norman could expand connections to Lake Thunderbird and city parks.

Discussion of the Saxon cross-country running trail as a venue, but it's a short trail and probably not of interest to bikers. Tobin suggested several small skills parks scattered throughout Norman. Also asked about access to the Canadian River, and Marcus said that all access requires crossing private property. James said there's long been a plan for a river park system in Norman, but getting the land is the issue. Marcus said a river park system would solve some enforcement issues for the NPD, as they can't get down to the river, in spite of the fact that a lot goes on down there.

E. Rework the 1996 Norman Bike Plan (all)

Discussed using the League's suggestions as a starting point for this. James will forward the old bike plan to all committee members to examine and familiarize themselves with. We should read the League's comprehensive bike plan for comparison. More on this in the next meeting, when Paul is back.

F. Address Infrastructure Design Spec (all)

As Angelo was absent, this item was pushed forward to next month's agenda.

G. Other Status Reports (all)

Marcus made the point that the PD gets a lot of calls from people who still think that cyclists in large packs are breaking the law. This brought up the recurring theme of educating motorists, and Sarah raised the idea of putting an informational flyer in Norman utility bills with information for cyclists and motorists (maybe one side directed at cyclists, the other at motorists). Funding is perhaps from public works. Try for one in August, or one next March? Something similar could also go in a "welcome to campus" packet for students. The BLN rides and ride etiquette were discussed.

(4) New Business (as time permits)

James brought up additional bike lane striping for feeder streets, and suggested that everyone bring a list of street candidates to the next meeting. This will be a regular agenda item.

Highway 9 expansion is added to next month's agenda.

Tobin raised the question of whether the four main bullet points from the League's feedback should be standing agenda items so they'd be reviewed on a regular basis. Most are aligned with standard items, but we'll examine them separately on a regular basis.

Sarah asked whether Parks & Rec could sponsor a street-closing event (one of the four bullet points). James will look into it, but he said usually the city doesn't do that, other organizations sponsor it (like the Norman Music Festival).

(5) Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn and passed. Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.