Big Lake Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 8th, 2019
Big Lake Council Chambers

1. Introductions
   a. Corrie Scott  City of Big Lake
   b. Janine Foggia  Sherburne County Public Health
   c. Bev Anderson  Big Lake Citizen
   d. Roger Zeman  Big Lake Citizen
   e. Colleen Zeman  Big Lake Citizen
   f. Michael Healy  City of Big Lake
   g. Allen Berg  Big Lake Community Education
   h. Tom Wyatt-Yerka  City of Big Lake/MN Greencorps

2. MN GreenCorps Member Introduction
   a. The City of Big Lake has a MN Greencorps Member, Tom Wyatt-Yerka, serving until mid-August 2020. Tom is an avid biker and will be serving as a resource to the group to cultivate biking culture, promote biking education for bicyclists and drivers, and lead group rides when needed. He will be teaching a community education course in the spring, helping with the bike rodeo, publicizing bike routes online, and will be promoting the Bike Big Lake group. Corrie and Tom are also working with Community Education to try to get some education into the drivers’ education programs. If you would like to know more about his work, or have any ideas on how biking in Big Lake can be improved, you can email him at twyatt-yrka@biglakemn.org or call him at 763-307-6040.

3. Bike Club Discussion
   a. With Bev Anderson stepping back from leading rides due to lake of attendance, Scotty Mitchell has offered to become more involved as his work schedule slows down into the fall. He shared information on a bike ride out to the Wildlife Refuge on the Facebook group page and asked if others would be interested in this route – there were a few responses but this route requires at least a mountain bike so participation is limited because of that.
   b. Members cited difficulty with communication as one of the reasons that the Bike Club has not had high participation. Going forward, making sure that members are aware of events will be important. We must utilize all of our communication channels (Facebook, email, attending events, etc.) in order to spread the word about the group and future events.
   c. Tom asked the group if they feel that there would be better participation focusing on a few events rather than weekly rides – consensus was that while
the group would still like to have semi-regular group rides the focus should be on promoting larger events with more time to promote them in advance. In addition, pairing the rides with an already existing event or planning a social event (drinks, food, etc.) for after the ride will help motivate participation.

i. Tom agreed to put together a fall ride for a month out. This ride will take place during the first or second week in November. He will gauge interest via the Facebook group and via email. The dates will be solidified next week, so keep an eye out for information on this fall ride.

1. Bev suggested that a route could start at Casey’s and end at Lupulin – Tom will reach out to Lupulin to see if there’s any promotion they would be willing to offer for after the ride.

d. Tom also addressed his concerns about keeping engagement up over winter and introduced the possibility of a “winter bike skills” workshop to keep people engaged. This event would take place at a future date after the Fall Ride being planned, so dependent on interest in the Fall Ride a winter event may be planned.

4. Educational Campaign Update
   a. Committee Folders
      i. All members were given a committee folder with member emails, a Big Lake parks map, biking information, information on the Bike Big Lake group, and meetings agendas/minutes.
      ii. All members were also given a survey to decide if there is a better time to meet, and determine the best time to host bike rides. If you were unable to attend the meeting and there is a better time that would work for you to meet, please email Tom at twyatt-yerka@biglakemn.org.
   
   b. Event Opportunities
      i. Winter Farmers Market
         1. The Winter Farmers Market will be held the 3rd Saturday of the Month from 10am to 1pm at City Hall – this is a new time and location from last year. This is a great opportunity for committee members to attend and promote the club, especially as we get closer to spring. Please consider attending November 16, December 21, January 18, February 15, March 21, or April 18.
      
         ii. Family Fun Fest Recap
            1. Corrie and Tom attended the ECFE Family Fun Fest last Friday. The event was a great success and they distributed information on the parks system, safe biking, the bike club, the farmers’ markets, and the community guide. There was also a kids’ craft table with “apple stamps” where the kids could paint pictures of trees with apples dipped in paint. There was a good turnout at the event, and a great reception to the information handed out. Next year – more community guides and more farmers’ market flyers!
      
         iii. “The Wave” Youth Center Fundraiser
1. “Join The Wave Youth Center for a Beach Party Fundraiser at Liberty Elementary on Saturday, October 12 from 11am-2pm. Admission is $10 per person, or $25 for a family of four at the door.


3. Multiple members suggested utilizing the youth center as a way to get more young people involved in the bike club. Corrie and Tom plan to reach out to the center to possibly partner on a ride once they are better established.

   c. Facebook Post Suggestions
      i. ‘Did you know…’
      ii. #BikeBigLake

1. Tom will be posting from the city Facebook page and within the Bike Big Lake group. He plans to share route information, pictures of bike facilities around town, safety tips, and profiles of local bikers. The city will also be promoting the new McDowell trail once it is officially open to the public. On Facebook people respond best to pictures and to people that they know/recognize, so if you take pictures while out and about (or would like to be featured on the page/group) please reach out to Tom.

   d. Fix-It Station Grant Status
      i. The Fix-It-Station to be installed at the Northstar Train Station is ready to go, pending action from Metro Transit. Corrie has been working with Metro Transit to get the station installed there but Metro Transit has been sluggish in their response. We are moving in the correct direction, but are waiting on Metro Transit to move forward.
      ii. The question was posed why the Northstar Station location was chosen rather than a city-owned location (the police station being the other option). Corrie explained that the station location was chosen because maintenance and associated costs will be handled by Metro Transit; if it was on city land Public Works would be responsible and they were not willing to take on extra maintenance costs. Corrie mentioned that the station at the Northstar location will serve as a good test case to see how much maintenance is needed – once in use for a while Public Works may be more willing to maintain another on city property.

e. Bicycle Friendly Community
f. Grant Opportunities
   i. CentraCare grant: November
      1. Due to the fact that McDowell trail was not finished in time, the grant funding to install wayfinding signs along the trail was lost because they were not installed by September 27th.
         a. We can apply for this funding again with the grant application coming up due in November.
i. Corrie, Tom, and Melissa will meet to discuss the next grant.

g. Parks and Trails Map progress
   i. Bike Route suggestions
      1. Thanks to Bev Anderson who created many bike route maps with detailed descriptions, there are many pre-planned bike routes. Tom is working to digitize all this information so that it can be shared on Facebook, with the Bike Big Lake group, and put up on the City website to be accessed at any time.
   ii. Corrie and Tom will spend the winter planning for the creation of an updated map. Funding will need to be worked out for the creation of a new map as it is costly to update.

5. Infrastructure Update
   a. Michael Healy, City Planner, attended to provide an update on biking related infrastructure projects. Many grants have been secured for planned projects which are in the works. Planned for next summer are crossings at Minnesota and Glenwood as part of the Safe Routes to School project. A very large trail extension is also planned for Highline and County Road 73 – this is projected to be completed in 2023 which is when the grant funding will be awarded from MNDOT. Michael also discussed a partnership with the University of St. Thomas to design a temporary “pop-up” safety project as part of a planning course. He discussed that the students would design the project for free, but it would be up to the city to decide whether/how to fund and implement it. Janine said that if the city decides to go through with it the county may be able to support in the form of materials or SHIP grant funding. Corrie also mentioned the CentraCare grant as a possible source of funding. Michael is meeting with the group from St. Thomas next week because they will need to get formal approval from the city – this could mean approval by the bike committee, sustainability task force, or both. Keep an eye out for a meeting to hear from the St. Thomas students.

6. Next Meeting on November 12th at 11:00 a.m. in Council Chambers
   a. Meeting frequency during winter months
      i. Corrie and Tom will use meeting surveys to determine if there is a meeting time which will work better for the group going forward. The group did not decide the frequency for meeting throughout the winter – this schedule will be decided at the November meeting.

ALSO: The annual Bike Rodeo will be on June 10th this year – please mark it on your calendars as this is one of the largest events of the year and volunteers are always needed!