

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

1. Introductions

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| 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-yerka@biglakemn.org or call him at 763-307-6040.

3. Bike Club Discussion

- a. With Bev Anderson stepping back from leading rides due to lack 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.
 2. View the event at <https://www.facebook.com/thewaveyc/> or <https://thewaveyc.org/> .
 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.

