

Comox Valley Cycling Coalition Monthly Meeting  
Thursday October 28, 2010

Present: Brian Schoneberg (director)  
Peggy Kabush  
Denis Kabush  
Willy Van Kemenade (social chair)  
Frank Hovenden  
Krista Kaptein (treasurer)  
Mike Gruber (education chair)  
Ed Schum (president)  
Terry Dekker (recording secretary)

Minutes from the previous meeting:

Minutes were read. Motion to accept: Mike Gruber, seconded by Peggy Kabush. Motion passed.

Matters arising from the previous minutes:

Committee Reports:

Traffic: Ed Schum

The traffic count went well and due to the higher than expected turnout of volunteers a larger count than last year was done. Results indicated that the number of cars was down 9% and the number of cyclists was down to 1.5%. Ed noted that Cliffe Avenue is worse now for cycling than it was before the construction and people are not being encouraged to cycle in the Valley.

17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge – Ed has reports of 3 serious accidents that have occurred on this bridge. A May 2009 letter to the Minister of Transportation re the unsafe conditions on the bridge has never been responded to. The coalition has asked to have the grating changed for cyclists as well as adopting the same signage that is now on the 5<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge. He has been told that it could take 4 to 5 years before this will be improved. This is not acceptable and Ed and Brian will discuss preparation of a letter addressing this.

Other Developments – Re Climate Action. Ed and Wilf met with MLA Don McRae regarding the provinces commitment to reducing green house gas emissions and the Climate action charter. This is not a binding agreement. Ed encouraged coalition members to attend the city council meeting next Monday, November 1, 2010 at 4 pm in city council chambers, as there will be a decision made regarding a proposal to commit the City of Courtenay to addressing Climate change issues. Council will accept or reject the proposal based on their discussion and he believes attendance by the public will impress on council community concern with the issue. He noted that the Ministry of Health has monies allocated for cycling infrastructure as an incentive for municipalities.

Chip Seal – Regarding the strips of chip seal laid along the sides of Headquarters Rd as a cycling lane, cyclists have noticed a significant improvement in the quality of the ride. Ed and Terry will pick up the remainder of evaluation forms at local bike shops for submission in December.

Education: Mike Gruber

School Rodeo at Robb Road went well. It was planned and implemented in only 4 weeks and a great job was done by Mike and his volunteers. 114 students went through the course in 1.5 days and were heard remarking that they enjoyed it. Mike hopes to coordinate more school programs in the spring.

Safe Routes to School continues to be an ongoing project. Ed has a DVD that covers education for children and will assist us in learning how to teach children and there is also a school education program on Google called “Safe Routes to School” that we can build on. It was suggested that Puntledge Park School would be a good choice as the next school to work with. Ed suggested to work with the PACs to develop a questionnaire asking why not more children ride their bikes to school. This will give us information to take to councils.

CanBike courses – It was decided that we would like to have more courses open to the public. We can work with the recreation centers that would do organizing and set up of the “Commuter Skills Course and we would provide instructors.

There was also some interest to hold another CanBike course – we will have to check with Gavin Mc Phail to see if/when he might be available to teach this course.

It was noted that some of the difficulty with cycling rules of the road is that they fall under the Motor Vehicle Act, which needs changing. Coalition members, Sue Bloxome and James Taylor are currently looking into needed changes.

Media

Tomiko has resigned and Krista is our media person. Monthly columns will continue and press releases will be done on an ad hoc basis. Brian would like pictures to put into a database for future use. A Cycling article is being written for the next recreation reporter.

Social

Discussion re the amalgamation of the Social and Special Events Committee, the success of social rides and future special events. A suggestion was made to plan some more reconnaissance rides and work with the probus group for social rides. Willy is proposing “Slow food Tours” of local farm producers and discussion was held regarding the closure of 5<sup>th</sup> street for a car free street/area day.

Financial

Krista presented the financial support and suggested that we consider committee expenses for the coming year. It was suggested that we allot \$500 for Education and \$100 for Special events. Ed is also considering the cost that would be incurred if an expert were brought in.

Re: incoming monies, it was noted that the Filberg Festival bike lock up was a good source of income for us this year.

The Next Meeting: will be on Thursday November 25, 2010. Brian will arrange a location.

Adjournment

Willy moved, seconded by Mike that we adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.