

Comox Valley Cycling Coalition General Monthly Meeting

March 31, 2011

Present: Willy van Kemenade
Terry Dekker
Krista Kaptein
Gladys Schmidt
Tyler Jones
Ed Fudge

James Taylor
Wilf Dreher
Marg Harris
Sue Fabrizio
Barb Fudge

- Approval of agenda - Sue moved, seconded by Willy to accept agenda as per corrections.
- Approval of Minutes - James moved, seconded by Wilf, that the minutes of the January 2011 meeting be accepted as written
- Matters arising from the minutes

Education - CanBike 2 course scheduled for April 9 and 10. There is still room left. The CanBike 1 course is not a pre requisite. The course is offered at \$50 per person. If a member in good standing is willing to assist teaching 2 courses, the fee can be waived and covered by the coalition

Cycle Ramp - city now understands that we were not happy with the existing ramp on the 5th street bridge stairway

- Reports

President - Marg states that much of what is happening is new to her and welcomes any input should she be missing any information. Her goal is that everyone has a chance to speak and have their commentary addressed should they desire.

Vice President - James also admits this is a steep learning curve and is working hard to get up to speed.

Treasurer - Krista gave her financial report. She has emailed a year to date financial report to the executive. The budget is in red at the moment although the bank balance is good. This is, in part because memberships are down, although they will continue to come in throughout the year. We have also had some unusual expenses including \$250 for door prizes at agm (AGM), promotional expenses involved in the new cycling map and the purchase of bicycle pins. The Upcoming expense for insurance through the BC cycling coalition is an unknown amount at this time. Krista moves, seconded by Tyler, that the report be accepted for information. Discussion held. Motion accepted.

Krista would like the current board to vote on the financial policies re Reimbursement of gas expenses for travel purposes; and a stipulation that, Expenses need to be claimed within 60 days of being incurred. Krista moved, seconded by Sue, that the board and membership accept the two existing polices. Discussion held. Motion passed

Membership - Sue reports that we have 79 members to date. The issue of having membership sign up on line vs. the cost that this would entail was discussed. More research is required.

Special Events – Willy, with help from Tyler, has been researching the feasibility of doing a Slow food or Farm cycle tour. This would be a one-day family friendly farm cycle tour 20 -30 km (with possibly shorter kids' routes). Interested farmers could highlight their farms, explain their operations and sell products. He approached Economic development staff person John Watson, met March 4th and received support for the idea. They would help with some of the details. This event could raise awareness of what the coalition is doing and is a good opportunity to raise our profile and attract new members. We can also promote safety and cycling and welcoming new members. Willy presented to farmer's market group and there was also a great deal of interest. Willy to also Talk on April 19 to the Farmer's Institute.

Willy would like to know that the membership is in favour and, if so, the next step is to create a planning committee of several factions.

James moved, seconded by Terry, to support Willy's continued involvement in the planning of this event. Discussion held. Some concerns raised re the amount of work and organization involved. Willy explained that the large number of organizations involved in organizing this would be sharing the workload. Motion passed.

A suggestion made that the coalition have a calendar of coalition events for the year so that when we need volunteers we are not spreading ourselves too thin. Tyler will work on this.

Technical - Wilf reported on a meeting he attended with the MOT and the regional district re Gas and Go access. The proposal for access is our concern because it will be configured in such a way as to squeeze cyclists. Jim Gillis initiated a re evaluation of the situation and of how, and if, cyclists should be accommodated. The suggestions have gone back to the MOT and Wilf expects that they will come up with some accommodation. The area of contention is a very short distance. If there is not a good accommodation the coalition will continue to put pressure on.

We have several access routes into town that currently have bike lanes but often in the past, when they are developed, the bike lanes are lost. The coalition has been keeping pressure on the various municipalities and the MOT to maintain the bike lanes.

A Cycling Task force meeting was held on March 24 re how is task force moving forward and what needs kick starting. This dealt primarily with Fitzgerald Rd. Wilf explained what the Task Force is for, for those members who were not aware. The next meeting is April 14 meeting

The Coalition would like to have a workshop featuring someone who is an expert in designing cycling infrastructure. The Regional District has \$10,000 sitting in an account for cycling infrastructure and this money could be used for events such as this. The Technical committee to meet to decide how to best make use of expertise of Richard Drdul and decide if he is a speaker that they would like to see featured.

A public forum will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at the Sid Williams Theatre from 4 - 6 pm to discuss Fitzgerald Ave. Coalition and residents have a chance to speak. Parking on the street is an issue for the residents. Council will have to make the final decision on whether to allow this or not. Some of the main intersections have lanes, which are not currently being used and could be used for cyclists.

17th Street Bridge, nothing happening we have continued to let the forces that be know we are not happy with the current situation.

Preparations are taking place for the construction, which will begin in April on Comox Avenue from the Comox town boundary to Rodello. 1.5 metre bike lanes are to be added to both sides of the

road.

James reported on two open community meetings regarding the Comox Official Community Plan (OCP) at 1pm & 6pm on Monday April 4, 2011 at d'Esterre house . James would like to see an east - west road create connectivity between Comox and Courtenay and a multi use path. He believes that we are getting technical bike lanes and he would like to see us also champion recreational riders.

Special Events and Social Committees – Have amalgamated and we will now draw on volunteers take on specific events rather than having one person, or people, responsible for all events. Nothing is happening at this time. Tyler would be willing to take on a point role for special events.

Communication with, and increase of, membership - Marg talked about the feasibility of sending out a once a month newsletter to advise members about what we are involved in, our successes, and issues that we are trying to address. She is willing to do this if there is support from the coalition. She would need a summary of information from committee members a week ahead of time. Agreement was reached by consensus for Marg to create and send out an email newsletter.

James believes that we need to provide a service and engage our members in an effort to keep members interested and strengthen the organization. He believes that we should have 4 general meetings a year, one annual general meeting and 3 other special interest focused membership meetings. The consensus is that this would draw more members out and that we should do this in the future.

Bicycle Lock up – Brian Schoneberg has arranged for an April 23 Earth Day bicycle lock up as well as for a lock up at the Filberg Festival in August. An email and phone calls will be organized in order to get members scheduled to volunteer at these events.

Trail Building - One of the Courtenay Rotary clubs has taken on the Trail Along the Rails for the section between 5th and 8th streets. Ed has suggested that the coalition participate in the labour of creating this. James moved, seconded by Krista, that we provide physical assistance to the Rotary Club. Discussion held. Motion passed.

Correspondence - An email was received from Rob Nygren requesting support, in the form of rider participation, for a 50km fundraising ride in the Comox Valley on May 15. This is intended to raise the funds for a team that will be participating in the Ride to Conquer Cancer in June. Gladys moved, seconded by Wilf, that the Coalition participates in this. Discussion held. Motion passed.

Other Business - Discussion was held on how to attract more members. It was agreed that we are not doing a very good job of attracting and keeping members and this needs to be addressed. Tabled for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:30