

COMOX VALLEY CYCLING COALITION  
Board/General Meeting  
Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Comox Recreation Centre

Present: Julie Howell, Rick Howell, James Taylor, Brian Schoneberg, Chris Bowman, Angela Dawson, Ed Schum, Sue Vince, Julia Painchaud, Terry Dekker

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda was Approved
3. Minutes from June 25, 2012

REPORTS

4. Financial Report - Julia Painchaud submitted the financial report, which was accepted.
5. Membership Report - Angela reported 11 new memberships as a result of the courses.
6. Technical Report –The committee is looking for input as to whether we should take a particular stand on the proposed changes to Fitzgerald Avenue. It was suggested that we support a separated cycle lane. A transportation study coming out this year will provide the basis for a cycling master plan. It was noted that a twin directional path only forces cyclists to ride on the wrong side of the road which is something which should not be encouraged. Comments were aired supporting the idea of separated cycling lanes and the convenience this offered for cyclists coming in from out of town as well as those riding with small children. If anyone has thoughts about the focus by the coalition on Fitzgerald please forward them to the technical committee. **We will send out an email asking for input from the membership.**

At the recent open house it was evident that the stated goals of reducing green house gases and increasing the cycling mode share were not possible with the current allocated resources. We need to hold our local politicians accountable for their December 2010 decision to adopt the OCP. This plan will require substantial resources.

Ed reports positive reports from the engineering committee re the OCP and re working with MOTI to design a bicycle friendly roadway on Ryan Road near Lerwick. The new Thrifty's project will include cycling lanes through the whole block on which the complex is located.

The contract to develop a Transportation master plan has just been awarded to the engineering firm Morrison Hershfeld and will be finished October. It should follow the recommendations of the OCP

7. New Horizons for Seniors' Federal Grant – *Chris Bowman* and *Angela Dawson* reported that we are now over 2 months into the project and it is going well. Several Canbike I and II and Urban cycling skills courses have been completed. It has become evident that a 4<sup>th</sup> slot for beginners is needed so that they are not grouped together with higher-level cyclists. At this point in the project the focus is on having adults trained so we have a trained pool of

instructors and volunteers to draw on for the children's programs in the fall. With each course Ed has been noting potential instructor candidates. We are fortunate that Criminal Record Checks are done through Valley Links at no charge.

The July 5 Canbike I course had 11 participants while the July 10 & 12 Canbike II course had 10 participants 3 of whom came from out of town. The two courses have provided us with 16 volunteers for future courses. An Urban skills/commuter course with 12 participants was held at the Comox Recreation Centre.

Feedback from courses indicated a need for an increased practice in traffic, and Angela will be holding her first traffic practice session tomorrow to meet this need. She will garner feedback from this and will do more of them should there be a need.

The Bike rodeo at the Driftwood mall was cancelled as there was not a committed group of children wishing to participate. We are considering partnering with a children's organization at some later time and possibilities for a permanent rodeo were discussed. It was noted that bike safety is part of the elementary curriculum in BC.

Angela is hopeful that an August 2 Urban skills course at Comox Rec Centre will provide more volunteers who reside in Comox. There will also be an August 15 Canbike 1 course in Courtenay, a September Bike Rodeo at the Base on Sept 15, a Sept 16 & 22 Urban Skills course and an October 27 Canbike I course. Courses are listed on our website  
Kudos to Angela and Chris for their work on the Bicycle courses and rodeos

8. The Bridge.

Preliminary feasibility studies for a 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge have now been approved by Courtenay City Council and the Engineering department has prepared the geotechnical study, surveying, and criteria for a design. The City is aware of, and has applied for, a federal/provincial grant for \$1.9 million, which should cover all costs except for the ramps on either side. The timber framers will require billeting and we will have to approach stores for donations of food with which to feed them. We cannot do any fundraising until we know the status of the grant application. Don McRae is trying to keep us apprised of the application's progress and should have news for us within the next few days.

Everything looking very positive. We will plan a public event once the funding decisions are made.

8. Special Events – *Sue Vince* reported that since our last meeting the Coalition participated in the Canada Day Parade (almost 20 people) and that all volunteer slots for the Filberg Festival bicycle lock up are filled.

9. Farm Cycle Tour Aug 11 & 12<sup>th</sup>. - Willy van Kemenade was unavailable to report but has advised us that a large number of farms are included on the tour. He would like coalition members to talk up the event. Anyone wishing to participate can register on the Farm Tour Site. James will forward information he received from Willy. **Brian to send reminders of the event to the membership, one now and one 10 days ahead of the event.**

9. Education Committee - James has requested a meeting with the New Horizons grant

committee in order to address the education committee concerns. He and Ed and will meet with Chris and Angela on July 31. At 3 pm. at Chris' home. Sheila MacDonnell is planning to contact us before the end of the summer holidays. She would like to initiate a safe cycling skills program for children as well as working on safe cycling and walking routes to schools

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS

It was moved that members who volunteer at the Filberg festival parking, and the cycling skills courses, be offered a coalition t shirt free of charge.

Motion passed

Marg sent out an email re an opportunity for contact with the NDP critic for transportation and sports on July 25. Ed, James and Sue will attend.

11. Next meeting is Monday Aug 27<sup>th</sup> We will need someone to transcribe minutes for that meeting as Terry will be away.

Meeting adjourned.