

COMOX VALLEY CYCLING COALITION
Monthly Meeting
Monday January 27, 2014
Comox Recreation Centre

Present: Marg Harris, Harry Gaines, Angela Dawson, Chris Bowman, Ed Schum, Richard Knowleson, Sue Fabrizio, James Taylor, Ann Jarvis, Heather Gaines, Terry Dekker

Financial Support – Julia Painschaud was unavailable but emailed the following:

- Account balance at Jan 1, 2014 was \$5921.70. There were no withdrawals from the account.
- Deposits: \$0.05 in interest and \$280.00.
- Balance at the end of Jan 2014 was \$6201.75.

Membership Report – Sue Fabrizio reports that the membership renewal has just begun for 2014 and that the total for 2013 was 147.

Technical Committee Report – James, Chris & Marg - reported on the Task Force meeting on January 6th, 2014. They advised that:

- the Fitzgerald Avenue changes and cycling lane markings will be instituted in the spring as weather permits;
- the reconfigured intersection of Menzies Ave and 5th will have street painting done, also as weather permits; and
- the City of Courtenay is officially in favour of “complete” streets.
- A major part of our focus continues to be to build relationships in the Comox Valley with elected officials, in addition to engineering and other staff members, of each municipality and the Regional district. To that end, we currently have monthly meetings with the City of Courtenay Chief Engineer Lesley Hatch and Engineering Technician Carrie (who takes proposed plans and assesses whether or not they meet Ministry of Transportation standards). The committee advised that they will continue to have these monthly meetings. Using our members’ expertise, the City of Courtenay Engineering Department has cycling infrastructure projects ready for the upcoming year as well as other projects for Council to consider in the future.
- The transportation plan is our priority.

Cycling Public Advisory Committee Report (CPAC) – Marg, James, and Chris –

- For the attendees who were not aware, Marg explained that the Cycling Public Advisory Committee is an advisory board to the Comox Valley Cycling Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of elected officials and staff members of Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland and the Regional District. On occasion a Ministry of Transportation representative as well as representatives from School District 71, the RCMP, VIHA participate.

- School district 71 has taken on the responsibility for Haste program.
- The next CPAC executive meeting will be held at 1:30 tomorrow, Tues January 28 at Marg's house

Cycle Skills for Life – Angela Dawson and Chris Bowman

- Reported on last year's grant and the continuation of the courses offered during that time. (Over 1,000 children and 137 adults successfully completed the courses). We are now linked with the HASTE program and there are 3 schools targeted by that for cycling skills courses in 2014. Additionally, we plan to return to schools where we have previously held courses (which is most of the middle schools in the district) to teach children who have not taken the course, as well as parents. We are also targeting cycling clubs for cyclist skills and behavior.
- Today's meeting of the Education committee highlighted that the coalition needs more volunteers and educators.
- Chris advised the meeting that John van de Clief has been contributing time, money and space to store and maintain the Coalition's trailer. Chris moved seconded by Angela that the coalition pays up to \$200 to John van de Clief for the maintenance and storage of the coalition trailer. Discussion held. Motion passed.

Bike Lights – In 2013, Ed Schum reported a need for lights by cyclists who could not afford them. We purchased 200 sets of lights and these have been distributed through St Georges United Church, the Salvation Army, World Community, Brain Injury Association, Care-a-van, and the RCMP to cyclists as well as folks who have wheel chairs and mobility issues. The efforts have been appreciated by those receiving the lights and most of them have now been distributed. A report will be prepared re how many lights, and through which venue, were distributed. The project has run \$130 over budget and Ed is requesting that the cycling coalition cover the additional cost.

- Chris moved, seconded by Marg, that the cycling coalition reimburse Ed up to \$140 for the over run cost of bicycle lights. Discussion held. Motion Passed.

New Initiatives

Sue Vince has joined the Nanaimo Cycling Coalition and is following up on a current initiative of theirs. Information to follow.

Old Business

- Sue purchased all the junction pieces and decals for bicycle racks. The pipe that we have is only partially useful as only one end is crimped. We will need possibly 30 lengths of pipe, specifically 1" electrical conduit, in 10' lengths. Several options were discussed and James & Ed will research further and report back to the board.
- Earth Day – James – The last earth day, held at Lake Trail School 2 years ago was a very small event and was not well attended. This year's planning meeting was, however, well attended by Community organizations. Earth Day will be

celebrated on April 22nd 2014. We have been asked to organize a ride along the Comox/ Courtenay estuary during which Project Watershed folks will educate people about the estuary. Discussion followed re our ability and willingness to participate.

- James will investigate insurance issues.
- James will send out notification of the next Earth day steering committee meeting.

- A reminder was given that this year's Snow to Surf race will be held on April 27th. We have volunteered to operate the exchange point for road bicycles.

- Discussion ensued over the planning of an event that would close 5th street to traffic and incorporates earth day. The goal would be to create an event that reduces conflict and increases cooperation with car drivers and the community.

New Business

- The Coalition's AGM will be held on Monday February 24, 2014 at the Evergreen Senior's Lounge of the Florence Filberg Centre in Courtenay. Doors will open at 6:30; meeting begins at 7.
 - Most board members will stand again
 - Reports need to be prepared and submitted to James, by February 14, 2014.
 - James will send Brian copies of last years AGM to post as well as providing printed copies for the meeting.
 - We will be introducing the concept of mapping shortcuts for cyclists and James will provide maps in order that folks can mark in the routes that they are aware of. James would like to create digital copies of area maps and cycling routes, trails and short cuts that are eventually linked to our web site of trails and shortcuts. Since 90% of the cost of maps is printing so there is reduced cost for digital maps. He would also like to make these maps accessible to information centres and bicycle shops in the valley. In order to make this happen the coalition would need to forge partnerships with a variety of organizations. Consensus at the meeting is that this is something that the board would like the coalition to take a leadership role in.
 - It was brought to our attention, that the tourist information centre has a walking, cycling map available to purchase and this needs to be researched.

 - The board was asked if it would like the "Special Meeting" nights to continue in 2014 and the consensus was that it would.
 - Marg to run AGM

 - Membership can be paid in person or by PayPal
 - James bought highlighters

- Ann Jarvis brought a map purchased at the local Information Centre which has walking/cycling routes of the Comox Valley
- Request to Man the Snow to Surf exchange point for Kayaks road bikes – need 12 volunteers for the exchange off the water onto the road bikes. They will be contacting Marg and she has offered our bike racks. Marg asks if we have the support to do this. Marg to speak to this at the AGM. Ed believes we might need 20. We will check with Sue as to whether this is possible.
- Healthy Communities – Chris Bowman BC Healthy Communities is a provincial initiative has grants to improve life in the communities. Each Community can put in for a 5000 grant. 5 areas in Comox valley and 20000 large one for a collaborative effort. A workshop from Silos to Systems to promote a healthier community exercise, local food, complete streets. Get times of meetings from Marg. Contact Nancy Hoffer if you would like to go.
- Comox Rotary – Mapping – Marg – Comox Rotary has offered to fund the cost of mapping and Rotary is enthusiastic. We need to determine how far can we go on our own on this project.
- Discussions in the works for possibilities re mapping. James outlined that we have people with skills, organizations that are interested in providing funding,
- Communication – Marg – How to let all members of the board share all information with all board members. It was suggested that all executive members share all information as to what meetings they are attending and projects in the works. We will try and do this and check in in March

Other Business

- Copyright Bridge Video 7 minute 14 minutes and 48 min will be removed from our website.

Next Meeting: Monday March 24, 2014

Meeting Adjourned