

River Bend Bicycle Club November 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7pm by President Joe Raaymakers. Sixteen club members were in attendance, plus Dave Spitler via FaceTime. Three guests also attended the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 2014 meeting were read. A correction to the minutes was made by Joe Raaymakers. In October, Mary Rupp, in addition to Mary Moore, provided information on Cranksgiving. Mary Rupp is in charge of the event this year. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Arlyn VanderEide and seconded by Steve Schmit. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Meier provided the October treasurer's report. The club had a new Employer Identification Number issued, and a CD was opened at 1st Gateway Credit Union. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Chad Jensen and seconded by Jim Dean. Motion carried.

RAGBRAI: John Bonte provided the RAGBRAI report. Three buses have been reserved with Wiersema Charter Service. Registration is now open on the RAGBRAI website. A form for the RBBC Charter for club members will be in the November newsletter and a non-member application will go on the website.

Membership: Club membership is up to 100. Joe said he has called some who sent in new memberships to verify if they are intending to join for 2014 for RAGBRAI purposes or are sending in memberships for 2015.

Cranksgiving: Mary Rupp reported Cranksgiving will be December 6th. The event starts and ends at Vinnie's Lounge in Clinton.

Old Business: Pastor Jorge Montes-Clausen, minister at First Congregational Church in Clinton, spoke of his petition for Clinton to become a safe bike riding community. He is interested in the city addressing safety for bike riders and pedestrians through bike lanes, speed limits and education.

There was information that the new bridge to be built between Savanna, IL and Sabula, IA will include a bike lane.

New Business:

Dave Rose, chairman of the Iowa Transportation Commission, addressed the meeting. Mr. Rose spoke on possible trail expansions and funding options for the Clinton area. Highlights of his discussion include:

- There is room for a bike path along the Mill Creek Parkway.
- The city already owns the right of way for a path from Hwy 30 to Eagle Point Park.
- Estimated cost of bike path from Hwy 30 to Main Avenue would be \$5 – 6 million.
- A path along Mill Creek would create a relatively flat 50 mile loop of trails around Clinton, which could be promoted throughout the bi-state area.
- Recreation trails are a big draw for job creation and tourism.

- The state of Illinois is responsible for funding and building the new Savanna – Sabula Bridge. Iowa will be responsible for the causeway to Sabula, which will be reconstructed and include a bike trail.
- There are funds and grant money available for trail projects. The club should work with city officials, such as Jason Craft, Clinton’s City Engineer, and with the local Chamber of Commerce to have projects ready to be submitted to the commission by June 1, 2015
- The commission evaluates and scores submitted projects. They look for how the proposed path would benefit a wider region (i.e. Fulton, Camanche, and Sabula)
- The dollar amount is not important. Do not be afraid to ask for big dollars.
- State Rep Mary Wolfe and State Senator Rita Hart may also be able to help secure funding for trail expansion.

Following Dave Rose, Edith Pfeffer, representative of the Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission, spoke. The commission is looking for projects to fund and gave examples of previous projects that received funds from the commission. She asked the club “if we had money, what might we do?” Ron Peters suggested one project could be to somehow link the bike lane coming off the Highway 136 Bridge to Clinton’s Discovery Trail. This would link Iowa’s trail to Illinois’s trail. Mrs. Pfeffer also said National Geographic wants to partner with the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative to boost geo-tourism along the river.

There was discussion of the possibility of a bike lane being added to Clinton’s 13th Ave N if the avenue is changed from four lanes to three lanes, including a turning lane. The club should ask the city if a bike lane will be included in the plan.

Ron Peters asked if the club would donate, to the Iowa Bicycle Coalition, two paid registrations for the 2015 Icycle Bicycle ride. These will be given away as door prizes at the RAGBRAI Announcement Party January 24, 2015 in Des Moines. In exchange, the Coalition will donate two tickets to the RAGBRAI Announcement Party to Cranksgiving for use as door prizes. A motion for the club to donate Icycle Bicycle registration to the Iowa Bicycle Coalition was made by Randy Meier and seconded by Steve Schmit. Motion carried.

Mileage Report:

Arlyn Vander Eide	1,879 miles
Gregg Pessman	2,076 miles
John Bonte	1,286 miles
Randy Meier	1,912 miles
Ron Peters	2,312 miles

Motion to adjourn was made by Steve Schmit and seconded by Ron Peters. The meeting was adjourned by Joe Raaymakers at 8:36pm. The next club meeting will be Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bertrand, Secretary