

**Great Plains Bicycling Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 20 July 2016**

The meeting was held at the home of Pat Bracken beginning at 7:30 pm.

Present: Pat Bracken, Mike Berger, Bob Boyce, Edie Matteson, Steve Clements, Rick Dockhorn, Max Antoine, Pat Grewe, and Randy Smith.

The minutes of the June meeting of the board were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Steve Clements reported the club had \$15,845.26 in assets as of 30 June 2016. The current membership count stands at 134 individual and 138 family, compared to 143 and 128, respectively, at this time in 2015. Heatstroke 100 registration fees and T-shirt sale as of 7/20 stand at \$1,409, which is considerably lower than last year (\$2,013).

Old Business

Ride Leaders and Club Rides

No new club rides recently. Many impromptu rides are being posted on Facebook.

Heatstroke Photo Backdrop

The photo backdrop is finished and was shown at the meeting by Steve Clements. It has sleeves at the top and bottom to accommodate rods/pipes for hanging it. Steve plans to purchase PVC piping or conduit for this purpose and a length of larger-diameter PVC pipe as a case.

By-Laws Update:

No progress since the last report.

Website Development

Steve Clements plans to proceed with development of virtual membership card technology, which falls within the budget for website development previously approved by the board. Other projects (e.g. automated billing) will be deferred until after the ride season.

TrailTrek Review

Edie Matteson was the club's liason to TrailTrek but was unable to attend the event. Steve Clements had planned to transport SAG supplies to the 84th Street SAG stop but asked the organizers to find a replacement so he could ride Tour de Nebraska, and they readily agreed. However, Scot Braly posted a ride on Facebook for the morning of TrailTrek, and some GPTN members inferred from that and Steve's opt-out that GPBC was not supporting TrailTrek. This opinion was exacerbated by the fact that their registrations were much lower than last year. Steve reported that he has spoken with GPTN Board members and feels that they now understand that no nefarious plot was afoot. However, several GPBC board members indicated displeasure with Scot posting a competing ride on Facebook, although it is fairly clear that anyone attending that ride was not going to register for TrailTrek in any event.

Firecracker 50:

Randy Smith reported that around 160 people signed the waiver list for the ride. Bob and Lynnette Boyce handled “registration” and Pat Grewe and Randy staffed the SAG stop. The ride drew participants from a wide area: we had riders from as far as Omaha, Syracuse, Gretna, and Kearney. Several of these folks were only there for the ride and were not staying in Seward for the day’s festivities. The morning was overcast and pleasant, but the south wind picked up by late in the ride. There were no mechanical or medical issues among the riders.

GPBC Promotional Video:

Nothing to report. Randy intends to discuss with his neighbor the UNL marketing professor.

New Business

Heatstroke 100

Planning is well underway, and volunteers have been solicited by e-mail; many volunteer spots are already filled. Chris Blackstock has agreed to manage SAG supplies. Pre-registration ends August 1. The board asked Rick Dockhorn to send out an additional e-mail blast prior to that deadline, and one after that date before the ride. Max Antoine is attempting to determine the status of the bridge and road work on and near the Hwy 66 overpass of I80 near the SAC Museum.

Member Survey

The board started the process of reviewing and discussing the results of the recent member survey, beginning with the first three questions:

- 1) How many years have you been a member?
- 2) Why did you join the Great Plains Bicycling Club?
- 3) Do you participate in the club’s weekly rides; why or why not?

Question 3 responses evoked the most discussion. Some respondents who are slower riders complained about too many of the rides being fast-paced, or of being dropped at a “no-drop” ride. A smaller number said they don’t participate because the group rides are too slow. During this discussion a consensus developed that the club should do more to recruit and encourage leaders willing to lead slower rides. These might be drawn from among the slower riders, or faster riders could be asked to volunteer to lead a slower ride. It was made clear that if faster-paced folks ride out ahead of an advertised slower ride, they are not the ride leader’s responsibility, and the leader should maintain the planned pace. Even slower riders who can’t keep up with that pace are a problem; the only real recourse is for the group to stop and wait periodically.

Pat Bracken suggested that the club should hold one or more “training” meetings for current or prospective ride leaders to overcome the “fear” that some survey respondents expressed about leading rides.

Tour de Lincoln Bike Maintenance

Mike Berger provided a news article in the Lincoln Journal Star about an artist who created one of the Tour de Lincoln art bikes returning to do maintenance on it. The article states that a number of these art pieces are in need up repair or maintenance, and Liz Shea-McCoy, the coordinator of the project, is looking for individuals or organizations to sponsor such repairs. Mike proposed the idea of GPBC providing such sponsorship. It was decided to invite Ms. Shea-McCoy to a future meeting to discuss the issue, potential bikes in need of work, and costs.

Cornhusker State Games Cycling Tour

Rick Dockhorn related that after this year CycleWorks will no longer organize and run the Cornhusker State Games Cycling Tour due to too many other summer commitments. He suggested that GPBC might step in to run the tour. The tour has distances of 25, 50, and 100 miles with several SAG stops, requiring an all-day commitment from one or more volunteers at each, along with volunteers at the start/finish to check rider registrations and hand out medals. SAG supplies are paid for by the Games using list provided by the organizers.

Several board members expressed concern that the Games are only a month before the Heatstroke 100 with its large volunteer requirements, and a few weeks after the Firecracker 50, and that staffing the Cycling Tour would interfere with recruiting volunteers for existing events. But given that a number of survey respondents expressed interest in volunteering for club activities, it was decided to put the question to the membership to see if anyone expresses interest in helping organize this event next year.

The next meeting will be Wednesday August 17th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Smith