

Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition
Special Meeting
20 August 2003

Meeting was called to order at 19:00hrs.

Opening comments included welcome and purpose of meeting. John van Beek stated that it is time to make decisions regarding our future including Spokelore, rides, etc.

Minutes of the previous Board meeting were not available.

Treasurers Report

Treasurers' report was not available, but Graham stated that there would be approximately \$2000.00 available after paying Shelly for her work during Bike Week.

Bike week information:

9600.00 in grants

8062.32 in expenses

1538.00 remaining (approximately)

135.00 bills still outstanding (approximately)

Net income from Bike Week to be split with Shelly for her work as coordinator.

Graham has written two(2) cheques for rent of Club room and will mail them this week.

They cover rent for August and September.

Bike Week

Shelly gave GNCC a number of CD's with reports, spreadsheets, grant applications, etc. These are a record of Bike Week and will assist the GNCC with future activities.

Shelly also listed grants that have been applied for and encouraged us to continue applying to cover costs such as rent. Grants applied for were from TD and the Foranzi Group.

Shelly offered the human powered blender to the GNCC for her cost of 500.00.

Routes and Technical

Routes and Technical meeting was held on 16 July 2003. Items of discussion were bike maps, E&N Trail extension and signs.

Jim Alex stated that he and Cathy recently rode the newly paved section of the E&N Trail and the grade was excellent, better than the highway.

There are still problems with E&N Trail crossing of the highway along much of the route. The intersection at Bowen Road will likely be one of the worst due to the amount of traffic.

Jim received a letter from a cyclist that has passed through our fair city and did not have any kind words about her journey north from Departure Bay. Issues will be brought to the next Routes and Technical meeting.

Membership Report

Don Oliver's report on membership indicated that as a result of reminders being mailed to delinquent members we have received 18 renewals. This brings the membership to 67. Discussion of the availability of membership lists and what information they should contain was discussed. In order to maintain member confidentiality it was decided that a membership list would be available to individuals or committees as required and that the list would include names and telephone numbers. E-mail messages would be sent through Don as has been done in the past.

Jim suggested that we could setup a group in Yahoo to which members could subscribe. This would facilitate the distribution of information without having to send it via Don and provide a forum for sharing bike information of all sorts. Members would have the option of subscribing and listing their e-mail addresses.

Chain Gang

Bob Goerzen gave a report on ride activities and the following were discussed.

Ride attendance is down from previous years, but this could be a result of reduced membership.

Planning of rides continues to be a problem. Calendar has rides listed, but not leaders for many of the them. Planning of rides and commitment of members to lead rides will have to be more organized.

Tom Hawking mentioned that starting rides from a central location is sometimes a problem, especially on Thursday evenings with the days getting shorter. Not as much of a problem on Sunday rides.

Bob would like to try moving the rides to Saturday. He indicated that there are many activities or events on Saturday that could be included in the ride calendar. Examples were the Errington Market (and other farm markets), Ladysmith Arts in the Street, Chemainus music events and many others. Tom stated that this would also provide the opportunity for some riders to stay overnight Saturday and return on Sunday.

It was suggested that September would be a good month to give Saturday rides a try.

There have been a number of people who have expressed interest in off road rides. It was suggested that we plan one(1) off road ride per month to accommodate those who do not feel comfortable riding on the highway.

Spokelore

Gay Cunningham has completed her term as Editor/Publisher and a replacement will need to be found. Keith Brown has volunteered to provide a September issue.

Don suggested moving Spokelore schedule forward a week to ensure that all members are receiving their copy prior to the meetings.

There will be a Spokelore editorial meeting on Tuesday 26 August 2003 at 19:00hrs.

It may be possible to exchange GNCC advertising on the buses for a Transit ad to be run in Spokelore. Jim will contact Marianne van Toor to discuss producing artwork for these ads as she may be able to enlist students from Malaspina College.

Additional advertisement is a way of reducing Spokelore costs and more advertising is currently required.

Activities

It is felt there is a requirement for a Canbike courses in Nanaimo. This could increase membership by ensuring that people were comfortable riding their bikes. Methods of funding, availability of instructors, location of training and advertising are all issues that would have to be resolved.

Jim Alex suggested that the GNCC could construct a float(s) to allow for participation in parades. This would increase exposure of the organization and likely gain additional members.

John van Beek would like to see the GNCC become more proactive in improving trail routes, especially between Victoria and Nanaimo. Jim Alix, Don Oliver, Tom Hocking and John Van Beek volunteered to form a Trail Committee to pursue this further.

The office needs a bit of organization. This includes sorting out all the materials currently there as well as ensuring that someone checks the answering machine a couple of times a week. Keith is currently checking the answering machine so additional volunteers would provide quicker response to any inquiries that might come in.

The idea of a Social Drop-in was discussed. It was suggested that perhaps once a month would be a place to start and that this could occur prior to a ride. It was then agreed that our first Social Drop-in would be prior to the last ride in September, more details to follow.

Closing

It was decided to hold another board meeting in September to deal with items that may come up prior to the AGM. The AGM is scheduled for 15 October 2003.

We will move the meeting location to the auditorium of the Community Services Building on the corner of Fitzwillam and Prideaux (same building as GNCC offices).

Meeting Adjourned at 21:00hrs.