

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 10, 2008
Regional Headquarters – Campbell West
Committee Room #4
7:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Present:

Brian Baty	-	Regional Councillor (Chair)
Barbara Henderson	-	Mayor, Wainfleet/Regional Councillor
Eric Flora	-	Regional Public Works Department
Ken Forgeron	-	Regional Planning and Development
Dianne Coppola	-	Regional Public Health Department
Paul Pattison	-	Public-at-Large
Dave Hunt	-	Public-at-Large/Cycling Ontario Alliance
Peter Davies	-	Public-at-Large/Niagara Freewheelers
Pat Maloney	-	Public-at-Large
Tim Whittle	-	Niagara Regional Police Service
Bob Romanuk	-	Public-at-Large
Connie Mancuso-Redman	-	Regional Public Works Department

1. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted as shown.

2. Review of Previous Action Items from November 1st, 2007 RNBC Meeting

See attached list 'Update on Action Items – RNBC Meeting of January 10, 2008'.

3. Review of Previous Meeting Notes (December 13th, 2007)

Page 3 – Task Force Reports

Item #5 b) – East Main Street (Streetscaping Project) – City of Welland

Paul Pattison informed the Committee that copies of the project drawings were reviewed and comments were provided to the City of Welland.

Frank Pravitz (absent from meeting) reported by e-mail that the City of Welland has responded back to him informing that bicycle lanes will be added, although there may be funding issues (to be discussed with Regional Public Works).

Page 5 – Items for Information

Item #6 b) – City of London Bicycling Safety Posters

Ken Forgeron would like the Committee to look at these posters and adopt them for Niagara's use by distributing them as a brochure to schools for educational purposes. Ken suggested that the posters be modified to show where a cyclist should be positioned at an intersection where trucks and buses are present. Safety is a key consideration.

Ken will e-mail copies of the posters to Tim Whittle to work with.

Action Item:

Ken Forgeron to e-mail copies of the London Bicycling Safety Posters to Tim Whittle. Tim will look at using these posters to develop a brochure as an educational tool for schools.

4. Business Arising

No business arising to report at this meeting.

5. Items for Consideration

a) Overview of Council's Draft Business Plan & Update on Status

Councillor Baty provided copies of the ***Council Business Plan: 2007-2011***, which were handed out to members present.

The six (6) Components of the Council Business Plan are:

VISION	The community's vision stated in powerful, memorable terms
MISSION	The Region's purpose and contribution towards achieving the community vision
OBJECTIVES	The results that need to be achieved over the next 3 to 5 years
STRATEGIC ACTIONS	The ways the Region, working with its partners, will achieve the goals
DESIRED OUTCOMES	The high level positive outcomes of implementing the objectives and actions
IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING	The approach to implementation and monitoring performance

b) Strategic Planning - Next Steps

- Appendix III – Guidelines/Recommendations-Bikeways Master Plan Study – this area of the report was reviewed and changes/additions were made.

- Dianne Coppola drafted a PowerPoint presentation on the RNBC Strategic Plan, which was viewed at the meeting. Some suggestions for revisions were made.
- Dianne asked members to submit any photos or other information that could enhance the PowerPoint presentation. (A copy of the presentation is attached for members who were not present at the January 10th meeting). If you have any additional ideas/photos, etc., please forward these to Dianne.
- Councillor Baty would like to present the RNBC Strategic Plan at the next CMT meeting, if possible. Eric Flora, Ken Forgeron and Dianne Coppola to be present at the PPWC and CMT meetings.

Action Item:

Eric Flora, Ken Forgeron and Dianne Coppola to present the RNBC Strategic Plan at the next PPWC and CMT meetings.

- Dianne Coppola provided two (2) handouts at the meeting, as follows:
 - i) **RNBC Business Planning Worksheets:**
This handout provides 3 objectives for this Committee (as stated in the “area of focus” in the RNBC Strategic Plan document). The worksheets show ‘Strategic Actions’ and ‘Desired Outcomes’ that this Committee will work towards implementing.
 - ii) **Potential Goals and Objectives for RNBC – 2008-2011**
This document explains the ‘Goals & Objectives of the RNBC Terms of Reference’ – long-term goals; short-term objectives; and goals and objectives identified at the November 2006 strategic planning session.
- It was decided by this Committee that over the next 3 meetings, members will focus on one of the 3 areas of focus and identify what goals, objectives and activities will help the committee succeed. The next meeting will focus on objective #1 – dealing with the implementation of the Bikeways Network, including a bicycle signage plan. Members are encouraged to review the Goals/Objective handout, as well as Appendix III from the Strategic Plan, as it contains information from the Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan Study.

Action Item:

Objective #1 (implementation of the Bikeways Network and a bicycle signage plan, as well as Appendix III (Regional Niagara Bikeways Master Plan - Recommendations/Guidelines) will be dealt with over the next 3 RNBC meetings.

6. Task Force Reports:

Engineering Task Force - (Eric Flora)

McLeod Road Environmental Assessment (EA) (City of Niagara Falls)

- MTO liaison meeting will be held next week to discuss interchange issues. Eric Flora will report back to our Committee concerning what was discussed on cycling issues.

Action Item:

Eric Flora to report back to RNBC on cycling issues discussed at the MTO liaison meeting.

South Niagara East-West Arterial Corridor Study (City of Niagara Falls)

- The RFPQ (Requests for Pre-Qualification) closes on January 22, 2008.
- 3 to 4 consultants will be selected to submit detailed proposals.

City of Niagara Falls New Transportation Master Plan

- Eric Flora is looking for input from staff concerning cycling issues for the proposed Transportation Master Plan for the City of Niagara Falls. Details will follow.
- Any ideas should be forwarded to Eric who will then forward them to the City's Project Manager.
- The City of St. Catharines is considering undertaking a St. Catharines Transportation Master Plan in 2009. The Region would be involved. Details to follow.

Education and Enforcement Task Force - (Tim Whittle)

Bike Helmets Available

- Tim Whittle advised that there are 40 bike helmets available to anyone who knows of a person or organization who could give them out at no cost for children in hardship circumstances.
- The helmets are multi-sport, good quality and somewhat adjustable.
- Councillor Baty will mention this to Brian Hutchings of the Regional Community Services Department.

Action Item:

Councillor Baty to contact Brian Hutchings (Regional Community Services Department) to advise him of the availability of the bike helmets to children in needy circumstances.

Update of Pamphlets

- Tim Whittle is hoping to have some RNBC pamphlets updated and available next spring in conjunction with the Bike Week Campaign.
- Tim will be looking at the City of London Bicycling Safety Posters, in order to reformat them for our use. Information on bicycle lanes will be dealt with as part of this initiative. Volunteers to assist with this task would be appreciated.

Action Item:

Tim Whittle to work on updating the RNBC pamphlets to be ready this spring in conjunction with the Bike Week Campaign. Volunteers to assist with the project would be appreciated.

Encouragement Task Force - (Dianne Coppola)

- Deferred to next meeting.

Policy Task Force - (Dave Hunt)

Niagara-GTA Newsletter

Action Item:

Dave Hunt will forward the Niagara-GTA Newsletter to Connie for forwarding to all members.

Port Colborne Official Plan

- Ken Forgeron reported that the City of Port Colborne's Official Plan is lacking in supportive bike policies and no Regional Network is reflected in it.

Action Item:

Ken Forgeron, Frank Pravitz and Dave Hunt to work together on a review of the City of Port Colborne's Official Plan, in relation to bike policies and the Regional Bicycle Network.

7. Items for Information

Toronto Bike Show – March 7 to 9, 2008

- Ken Forgeron is looking for volunteers to assist again this year at the Toronto Bike Show. He will be sending out an e-mail request for volunteers.
- Ken would like to get 3 people for each time slot. Starts on Friday at noon and ends on Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
- The space available for this Committee will be in the same spot as last year.
- There will be some free passes available.
- Tim Whittle and Paul Pattison volunteered.

Action Item:

Ken Forgeron to send out an e-mail to all RNBC members requesting volunteers for the Toronto Bike Show – March 7 to 9, 2008.

Hosting Joint Hamilton-Burlington-Niagara Spring Meeting

- It is Ken Forgeron's understanding that Niagara will be hosting this year's joint meeting with Hamilton-Burlington tentatively scheduled for May 24, 2008.
- The Committee is looking at a possible location to hold this meeting.
- Tim Whittle suggested the Township of Wainfleet, as it is easier for people from Hamilton-Burlington to get there. Perhaps the Municipal Hall could be used for the meeting. Councillor Henderson is supportive.
- The afternoon session of this meeting will encompass a tour of the area.

Action Item:

This item will be included on the February 21st RNBC meeting agenda in order to discuss the location of this meeting, as well as possible route for the tour and lunch arrangements.

Proposed Trail along Regional Road 55 (Niagara Stone Road) - Town of NOTL

Frank Pravitz provided the following information (via e-mail) concerning the proposed trail along Regional Road 55 (Niagara Stone Road) in the Town of NOTL:

- A recent article in the St. Catharines Standard (Mr. Dick) calls for bicycle lanes/sidewalks instead of the path (see item for distribution).
- Concern was expressed about conflict between cyclists and driveways.
- Frank noted that his understanding is that the bicycle lanes/paved shoulders are still to be added under the Regional Bikeways Plan.

- His original comment to the Town of NOTL also recognized the concern about conflicts with driveways and commercial establishments, although his suggestions were to enhance the pavement marking in these conflict zones.
- This will allow children to take the off-road pathway; while more experienced cyclists can ultimately use the paved shoulder/bicycle lane.

Niagara TREKZONE Challenge

- Dianne Coppola advised that the Niagara TREKZONE Challenge is being launched this week and encouraged members to consider marshalling a team of 2 to 10 people.
- The challenge encourages people to set healthy eating and physical activity goals for a 6-week period between January 7 and March 30, 2008.
- Participants are eligible to win prizes supporting healthy eating and physical activity.
- Visit www.trekzone.ca for more information on the challenge and other related topics.

Annual Bicycle Membership Due

- Ken Forgeron advised the Committee that the annual bicycle membership (Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals) is coming due.
- He suggested that it is worth continuing with this membership, as it has provided the RNBC Committee with valuable information and the cost to belong is \$75.⁰⁰.

Retirement Gift for Jan Somerwil

- Dave Hunt reminded members he is collecting \$5.00 from everyone for Jan Somerwil's retirement gift from the Committee.

Items for Distribution

Ken Forgeron and others distributed the following items:

- "The Business Case for Active Transportation – The Economic Benefits of Walking and Cycling – March 2004
- The Standard News Article – "Proposed trail in NOTL isn't safe, critic says" – January 9, 2008.
- Pulse Article – "Cycling Woes – St. Catharines' Bicycle Transportation Strategy is in Serious Need for a Tune-Up" – January 3, 2008
- Niagara TrekZone Challenge – Tracking Booklet & Healthy Tips
- Copy of new RNBC Letterhead

8. Items for Next Agenda

- i. Strategic Plan Exercise - Objective #1 - (Councillor Baty/Dianne Coppola)
- ii. Hosting Joint Hamilton-Burlington-Niagara Spring Meeting

9. Date of Next Meeting:

**Thursday, February 21, 2008
Committee Room #4 - Campbell West - 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting Adjourned at:	8:25 p.m.
Meeting Notes Reviewed by:	Ken Forgeron/Eric Flora/Dianne Coppola
Meeting Notes Recorded by:	Connie Mancuso-Redman