



MMBA-POTAWATOMI CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Arbor Brewing Company, Ann Arbor

Wednesday March 25, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.

Attendees: Bill Mayer, Marne Smiley, Barry Snellgrove, Andy Hromadka, Trey Allen, Frank Schwende, Win Walker, James Wick, Gary Anderson, Dan Kokoc, Jason Collom, Dan Wray, Charles Smith, Erin Smith, Kirstin Bohac, Neal Blatt, Mike McCormick, Mike Casey, Stani Bohac, Bernie Smith, Bob Wolfe, Emil Sims

1) Officer Elections

Attendees voted to elect the following officers for a one year term.

- a) President – Bill Mayer
- b) Vice President – Emil Sims
- c) Secretary – Kirstin Bohac
- d) Treasurer – Stani Bohac

2) Trail Coordinators' Reports

- a) Potawatomi – (Jason Jones)
 - Trail is in good shape.
 - i) A grant application has been submitted to improve the root bridge section. It was suggested that this section needs a boardwalk
 - ii) Jason encourages the continuation of trail adoption for trail maintenance. 2-3 sections of the Poto are available to be adopted. Those interested should contact Jason.
- b) Brighton – (Chris Hescheles)
 - i) Torn Shirt is in good condition. Murray Lake is still wet.
 - ii) **Trail Workday 4/26** – reroute needed for Murray Lake “on the down after trail split at the top of the hill at 1.5 mile mark”.
- c) Ann Arbor – (Norm Roller, Bill Mayer)
 - i) The City of Ann Arbor and University of Michigan abruptly closed unsanctioned sections of the Cedar Bend trail this week. MMBA hadn't been involved in building these trails.
 - ii) **Trail Workdays will be held at various sites in Ann Arbor every Tuesday at 6pm starting in April.**
- d) Hewens Creek/Rolling Hills (Ypsi) – (Norm Roller)
 - i) Received the green light from Ypsilanti to go ahead. There are 10 miles of trail on west and 5 miles of trail on east.
- e) Sharon Hollow (Manchester) – (Norm Roller)
 - i) A new trail is being built using sustainable design. There are 3 large areas of land in this area which could potentially result in a lot of trail miles for biking.

- f) Morton-Taylor (Canton) – (Gary Anderson)
 - i) Trails are not open yet for the season since it's still too wet.
 - ii) Current trails consist of several little loops but once bridges go in, the sections will be linked.
 - iii) **Trail Workday 3/28.**
 - iv) A Poto Chapter group ride will be scheduled sometime in late July/early August once bridges are in.
 - v) Efforts to promote the trails are underway with local shops.

3) **President's Report (Bill Mayer)**

i) **Triple Trail Challenge 9/19 (rain date 9/26)**

- ii) FAFL (First Across the Finish Line) Awards were presented at the MMBA Annual Meeting on 2/22 for members who completed at least 10 hours of trail work. This year's award was a pair of MMBA work gloves. Poto Chapter had 20 members receive this award.
- iii) The Poto Chapter also gives a Super FAFL Award for Poto members who completed at least 20 hours of trail work. This year's award was a \$50 gift certificate to Aberdeen Bikes in Chelsea.
- iv) This year, MMBA increased the annual membership fee for individuals from \$25 to \$30 and families from \$30 to \$35. In the past \$1.60 of the membership fee went to the selected chapter. Now \$5 will go to the chapter.
- v) A goal for 2009 is to increase Poto Chapter membership. The Poto Chapter currently has ~200 members, but this has been steadily declining over the years.

Brainstorming for increasing membership:

- Encourage bike shops to provide literature to anyone who buys a \$500+ bike.
 - Trailhead kiosks-need to be updated and more visible.
 - Create a Poto chapter newsletter.
 - Have Poto chapter table at various events (Bike Ypsi, Top of the Park, Iceman, new students at U of M, Zoo de Mack, AA Green Fair, Bike store sale days)
- vi) Special thanks to Arbor Brewing Company for donating the use of the room for chapter meetings, as well as for beer at upcoming chapter events.
 - vii) The Poto chapter website is out of date. A volunteer is needed to take over this responsibility since the previous volunteer moved away, and we no longer have the ability to update our current website.

4) **Treasurer's Report (Stani Bohac)**

- i) Current bank balance is \$6,739.83. There have been 2 deposits this year, but no expenses.
- ii) The chapter's year end financial report has been submitted to the state.

5) **Executive Director's Report (Marne Smiley)**

- i) Sustainable funding for the DNR - A proposal has been submitted to state legislators which attempts to address the issue of sustainable funding for the DNR. It recommends no more state park annual vehicle permits, but instead a \$10.00 increase to driver's license fees. An opt out clause is available to those who do not wish to participate. There is a lot of resistance to this proposal from transportation groups. Marne strongly encouraged attendees to write letters and make phone calls to their legislators in support of this proposal. **Timing is critical and action is needed by April 1.** The MMBA website has a form letter and a list of various state legislators.

ii) Marne attended a bike summit in Washington DC and was a presenter at several summit sessions. 500 people attended the summit. During this trip, she also met with several legislators.

iii) The Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund has announced that their focus for 2009 will be trails and greenways. Currently MNRTF is the only group with funding (DNR has been without funding since 2004).

6) Chapter Schedule

Discussion of the 2009 schedule was postponed until more information was available.

7) New Business

i) Ann Arbor Art Fair Bike Valet - Frank Schwende of the Washtenaw Bikers & Walkers Coalition (WBWC) shared information about adding a bike valet service at the **Ann Arbor Art Fair (7/15, 7/16, 7/17 from 10am-8pm & 7/18 from 10am-5pm)**. The bike parking lot would be located on Thompson Street. Bikers would be asked to contribute a tip for this service. Any tips collected would be donated to PEAC - Program to Educate All Cyclists. The bike valet service would cost WBWC \$851. They are asking various groups, including the MMBA Poto chapter to help with \$100 towards this cost. They are also asking for volunteers to help staff the bike parking lot for 2-3 hour shifts. Frank will post a volunteer schedule www.wbwc.org

Stani Bohac made a motion to provide up to \$100 to support the WBWC's bike valet service. Bob Wolfe seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

ii) Island Lake Bike Demo – 5/9

There was a brief discussion about trying to make this a fundraiser for the Poto chapter by selling food (i.e. chili), but liability issues were discussed and it was decided this would not be a wise venture.

8) Old Business

The status of the purchase of a tool trailer was discussed. Follow up is needed with Robert Hurley. The chapter had approved up to \$500 for this purchase at 9/24/08 meeting.

9) Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm

Reminders and Task Acceptance:

- Morton Taylor Workday: March 28, 2009
- Ann Arbor Trail Workdays: every Tuesday starting on April 7, 2009, 6:00 P.M. (location TBA)
- Brighton Trail Workday: April 26, 2009
- Bike Ypsi: May 3, 2009, 10:00 A.M. (Rides) & 12:00 P.M. (Festival) www.bikeypsi.org
- Island Lake Bike Demo Day: May 9, 2009
- Poto Chapter Meeting May 27, 2009, 7:30 P.M. (Arbor Brewing Company)