



DRAFT

Working Bikes General Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2022; 7:15-9:00 PM

1. Call to Order - 7:15 *Trevor called the meeting to order at 7:19PM.*
 - a. Introductions/Attendance *Trevor Clarke, Ellen Gibbon, Dave Gorman, Aaron Brown, Jim Lindsey, Francisco Rubio, Xail Hernandez, Tony Osborne, Colette Balas, Carolyn Weber, Mark Dabrowski, Paul Konkoly, Maricela Delgado, Dalia Delgado, Lee Ravenscroft, Amy Little, Jerry Cohen, Devon Snyder, Nikki Patino, Josh Korby, Phil Kaplan, Ruth Rosas, and Rev. Tommie Johnson.*
 - b. Around the room prompt: Highlight of 2022?
2. Approval of August 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes - 7:35 *Approved as presented. (Mark -1, Jim-2, unanimous)*
3. Community Partner Update – Rev. Tommie Johnson, Outside the Walls Ministries - 7:30 *Rev. Tommie came to Chicago from St. Louis 30 years ago to work with ex-offenders, and has since then expanded to help anyone in the community to obtain housing, employment, social services, and education. They are located at 601 S. California. Our bikes have been provided for a few years now to people in need, especially through their holiday bike giveaway program and, at Rev. Tommie’s request, an event in Douglass Park in September. We’re providing them with 35 bikes this holiday season.*
4. Community Bike Mechanic Program Update – Francisco Rubio, Participant - 7:40 *Francisco is very appreciative and enthused about having graduated from our program, and also to have been hired as a production mechanic! He has a special affinity for low-riders and is part of the local low rider club community. Congratulations and welcome, Francisco!*
5. Operations Updates - 7:55
 - a. Storefront *Josh reported that the Bike Chicago program is keeping the mechanics busy, and will provide work and income through the winter. To date, 400 bikes have been overhauled and given away, which fulfills the quantity that had been programmed for 2022. We are now building the 2023 inventory soon. A total of 5,000 bikes is planned in the multi-year program.*
 - b. Service Department *Xail said that the Community Bike Mechanic Program participants have been busy prepping bikes from the basement for Cycle of Power/Peace recipients. The service mechanics continue to focus on quick repairs, referring more involved work to other local shops.*
 - c. Volunteering *Colette has individual volunteers repairing kids bikes now, groups are prepping bikes for shipping, and high school students are working on tubes. Tacos Tuesday on the first Tuesday of each month have been popular and a good way to get information out about the Community Mechanic Training Program.*
 - d. Collections and Donations *Trevor said that Costco’s returned bikes that are provided to us through World Vision have been great for overseas partners, but the supply will now be limited until next summer as World Vision ships bikes to their own partners and programs.*
 - e. Staffing *Trevor reported that Francisco and Maxx have been added as production mechanics, and Dan has greatly reduced his hours. Al Schorsch has a streaming*

content show coming out soon called “Kill Your Lawn” and has taken leave from his role as a Mechanic with Working Bikes.

6. Board of Directors elections - 8:10
 - a. Call for nominations *Jim summarized the role of the Board, and welcomed statements of interest from interested members.*
7. International Shipments - 8:15
 - a. Partner updates *We just sent a container to Ghana (Village Bicycle Project), and will send another to Malawi (Africycle) next week. This will tally 16 for the year. There was discussion about interest from a group located in Chile, although their funding and logistics are uncertain.*
 - b. Bicycles for Growth / USAID work with bicycles *Jim discussed the proposed federal bill called the Bicycles for Rural African Transport Act, which we’re excited about as it highlights the importance of fit-for-purpose bicycles in sustainable development. We have been speaking to staffers for representatives in Congress, program staff with USAID, and parties contracted to work on a study of bicycle markets in 5 African countries, Bicycles for Growth. We have clarified that used bikes are an essential part of local bicycle ecosystems in our partner communities. Board members were asked to advocate for the Act by writing a letter to their elected representative. Jim will follow-up with a template letter to assist.*
8. Cycle of Power/Peace - 8:25
 - a. Referral Status *Colette says we’re all caught up! All outstanding referrals have bikes built and ready for pickup, new referrals are less frequent and are getting rolling very quickly.*
 - b. Refugees Assistance *We’re working to build up “bicycle libraries” at the City’s resettlement centers, and also helping to connect asylum seekers with five dollar annual Divvy passes.*
 - c. Upcoming Donation Events
 - i. Kiddie Bikes! *Rather than hosting a giveaway here at WB, we will be providing bikes to our community partners.*
9. City of Chicago Bikes Giveaway Program *As previously mentioned, we’re continuing to build bikes for this program, and are utilizing the rented space to the west of our dock. The owner of that space has paid for a double-locking doorway that has been installed in our shared brick wall.*
10. Committee Updates - 8:45
 - a. Strategic Planning *Jim reported that the long process of conducting interviews and collecting questionnaires has been completed, and the Board and Committee is now undertaking a process to review and update our mission, vision and values statement. The resulting drafts will then be circulated for comments.*
 - b. Building & Trucks *New windows will be installed upstairs in 2023. Also, our new used Tacoma is great!*
11. Additional Business 8:55
12. Adjourn - 9:00 *The meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM. (Josh-1, Jerry-2).*