



## Working Bikes General Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2023; 6:30-8:00 PM

1. Call to Order (following potluck at 6:00) - 6:30 *Vice President Phil Kaplan called the meeting to order at 6:37. He explained that President Jim Lindsey is on a medical leave of absence, during which he will assume the duties of president per the bylaws, and Board Member Dalia Garcia has volunteered and been approved by the Board to assume the duties of vice president.*
  - a. Introductions/In attendance *In attendance were Trevor Clarke, Dave Gorman, Mark Dabrowski, Dave Simmons, Aaron Brown, Colette Balas, Alex Lamers, Devon Snyder, Karim Kamala, and Ricardo (Brian) Barrera (joined at 7:10).*
  - b. Community Agreements reading
2. Approval of April 5, 2023 meeting minutes - 6:40 *Approved as presented. (Mark-1, Alex-2, unanimous)*
3. Community Partner Presentation; Dave Simmons, Ride Illinois - 6:45 *Dave explained that he became director in 2021. Ride Illinois has only one other full-time employee, and they do their best to represent membership across the entire state. RI has historically acted as a vast biking club, but their new strategic plan has set their main goal to eliminate bike fatalities, and also the "I Can Bike There" campaign, which aims to get everyday people to realize that biking may be an accessible transportation option for their routine trips.*
4. International Partner Update; Karim Kamara, Village Bicycle Project, Sierra Leone - 7:00 *Karim is now in Washington DC, following his visit to Chicago. The container that we loaded with him should arrive in Freetown on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Of the 470 bikes, 120 will be used for their programs such as for kids and community health workers. The rest will be distributed amongst 12 shops and sold to other mechanics. He enjoyed meeting everyone, and learning about the good work that we're doing in Chicago, which he wasn't previously aware of. The Biking Out Negativity ride was a highlight for him.*
5. Committees & [Strategic Plan](#) Goals Update - 7:15
  - a. Volunteer Community – Goal #1: Grow and Support our Volunteer Community
    - i. Current volunteering times & upcoming needs, whiteboard up front. *Brandon's Basic's volunteer training is back on for Tuesday nights with Alex and Wren collaborating on topics.*
    - ii. Basement stacking party planned for June 9<sup>th</sup>. *Much of this work is already done, thanks to Jerry McNamara, Alex, Colette and the READI Crew. A focus is bringing all the crimp welded bikes upstairs for stripping and scrapping.*
    - iii. Brandon's 10-yr Anniversary Gathering on August 26<sup>th</sup> 4-7 PM. *The EventBrite registration is now up and running. Trevor shared that a nice article was written about Brandon, available at <https://www.thebeacher.com/2023/ewExternalFiles/BeacherJun01.pdf>*
  - b. Building Committee – Goal #2: Improve Functionality of our Building *Aaron briefly went over these topics.*
    - i. Security cameras done!

- ii. Ramp to 24<sup>th</sup> Place door planned, our neighbors at 2415 W 24<sup>th</sup> Place are working on plans for it.
    - iii. Fire suppression pump needs. *There's a meeting with an engineer tomorrow. Our neighbor that shares our system will be disconnecting to install their own pump.*
  - c. Executive Committee – Goal #5: Advance our Leadership; Local, National, Global
    - i. During Jim's Leave of Absence as President, VP Phil Kaplan is assuming duties as President, and Dalia Garcia is assuming duties of VP.
    - ii. Status of "Bicycles for Growth / Bicycles for Rural African Transport Act" *Waiting to see how the bill plays out in Congress following Senator Durbin's visit.*
    - iii. Additional news of our local, national & international partnerships. *The READI Program is going strong, under Alex's guidance. We've received a \$7,500 grant from Latinos Progresando to improve accessibility / education to our storefront. The Phillips Family Philanthropic Foundation has provided us with a \$3,000 grant to hold community fix-it events, the first of which took place at the Douglass Park field house.*
  - d. Communications Committee – Goal #3: Improve our Communications and Storytelling
    - i. Devon Snyder volunteered to chair this. Collecting photos and videos for newsletters, social media and press. *Tom Mulhern and Wren are also assisting. Send your photos with captions and videos to Devon.*
  - e. Goal #4 (All Committees & Individuals): Institutionalize our Commitment to Equity and Social/Racial Justice
    - i. Justice at Work online program participation. *All staff and board members had been invited to participate in this online, self-paced program, and many are doing so. There's interest to have time to discuss the program after all the participants have completed it.*
- 6. Operations Updates - 7:45
  - a. Storefront / Service *Summer interns will be starting on June 19<sup>th</sup> through Project WOW and the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council.*
    - i. Collecting Data
    - ii. Welcoming Brian (Ricardo)! *Ricardo is enjoying his new role as our Community Bicycle Repairs Manager. He's currently splitting his time between service and Brandon's, and also leading BikePOC nights and working with the READI Crew. He has a goal to shorten the waiting time for Cycle of Power Bike recipients.*
  - b. Production *Eli, John Clark and Gary Hurst are putting great time in production, and Josh would like to add more mechanics hours since we're about 160 bikes behind the same time last year. However, the team is doing well to focus on the types of bikes that are in most demand.*
  - c. Collections / Shipping *We've shipped 2,970 bikes thus far in 2023, as compared to 1,842 last year. We just loaded for Zambia (AKP's Chipego shop). In May was Uganda (AKP's Bwindi Shop) and Sierra Leone (Village Bicycle Project). In April was Lesotho (Bikes for Lesotho) and El Salvador (CESTA). Next will be Uganda (Cycles for Farmers), El Salvador (CESTA), and Malawi (Africycle).*
  - d. Bike Chicago / Cycle of Power Giveaways *Gave away 366 since March over four events. Looking for more events since many bikes are ready to go. Gave 200 kids bikes at Biking Out Negativity ride in North Lawndale, and working on 150 bikes to the Chicago Help Initiative (works with refugees and soup kitchens). Looking for more ways to help refugees to get bikes.*

- i. Two-month follow up maintenance check-in *Will be asking COP recipients to stop back in after two months for a tune up since currently bikes are only brought in after they have major problems that are difficult and time-consuming/impracticable to fix.*
7. Additional Business - 7:55
  - a. 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party October 7<sup>th</sup> 5-9 PM *The Committee is chaired by Ellen Gibbon, and they've been meeting regularly. Need silent auction items!*
8. Adjourn - 8:00 *Adjourned at 8:26 (Trevor-1, Colette-2)*