

## Greater Eugene Area Riders (GEARs) Minutes for Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Time Meeting Called to Order: 6:35 PM

Meeting Place: Stellaria Building, 150 Shelton McMurphy Blvd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom, Eugene

### Names of Meeting Participants and Absentees:

#### Present

Larry Diffie, President  
Karen Goodwin, Member at Large  
Steve Hecker, Vice President  
Dave Zumbrunnen, Secretary  
John Reidy, Member at Large  
Mike Cantrell, Administrator

#### Absent

John Hofer, Treasurer  
Al Hongo, Member at Large  
Jessi Stinson, Member at Large  
Jim Wilcox, Member at Large

#### Guests

None

A quorum was present.

1. **Introductions-** (Everyone was previously acquainted.)
2. **Minutes Approval-** A motion was made by Steve to approve the board meeting minutes for May 2018. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.
3. **Committee & Administrator Reports-**
  - A. bRamble Committee – Mike distributed a status sheet dated 6/12 that indicated registrants for each ride category. A total of 31 persons have pre-registered with 7, 12, 8, and 4 registrants for the 100, 62, 40, and community ride, respectively. Twelve bRamble jerseys have been sold that is just short of the 15 minimum required order. Mike pointed out that 3 registrants are from out of state.

Karen described some problems with the prospective caterer who had thought that burritos would be pre-prepared instead of prepared on-site. They are unable to perform the intended catering. A replacement caterer is now being sought. A winery has not been confirmed. Steve suggested that an inquiry be made in conjunction with the Noble Urban Winery Ride scheduled for June 22. Karen expressed disappointment that several companies and organizations have declined this year to be bRamble sponsors. However, interactions may lead to future sponsorships. Due to time constraints, jersey and t-shirt designs were finalized with only the few confirmed sponsors (i.e., Mountain Rose Herbs, College Hill Dental, and Cycle Oregon) incorporated into their designs. Advertising is ongoing on several different

fronts such as posted flyers, leaving announcements at other area events, postings on Facebook and the GEARs web site, and word-of-mouth by supportive organizations such as the Eugene YMCA. Karen distributed bRamble posters for distribution. Party in the Parks and the Moonlight Mash are among area events where the bRamble will be promoted. bRamble event coordinator, Michael Reeder, anticipates holding a meeting of coordinators. He plans to meet with Dave soon about equipment planning, perhaps at the GEARs storage locker. A coordinator for the Crow rest stop has not been identified. Karen contemplates having a non-profit group or employees of an area company staff the rest stop. Dave emphasized the need for a rest stop coordinator at Crow who is tasked with identifying equipment needs, assembling supplies, and acquiring food. The equipment truck will deliver only boxed items that are labeled for each rest stop and are placed in the storage locker in advance by a deadline date. The equipment truck will deliver water in large jugs (some with ice) but will not take loose items, filled coolers, or supply food. These should be taken by rest stop coordinators.

- B.** Ride Committee – Steve reported that several persons have volunteered to assist with the Cycle Oregon rest stop. Mike said that club event rides are being organized such as the Row River Trail Ride scheduled for later in June. The Cinnamon Roll Ride at Paula’s house was a success. A progressive dinner ride for some time after the bRamble is in the early planning stages.
- C.** Administrator Report – Mike is continuing to update the ride descriptions on the GEARs web site. He is changing existing maps to Ride with GPS maps. He is keeping the GEARs web site up to date by posting new information soon after it is provided.
- D.** Education Committee – Steve reported that an educational program on using Garmin devices and Ride with GPS will be on the July calendar. Mike reported that Ride with GPS will be available to members soon. Mike will send an e-mail message to members with instructions. Karen suggested that members have the smart phone app loaded in advance of the educational program so it can be used there.
- E.** Advocacy Committee– Dave prepared at the board’s request an article for the recent newsletter about an idea to post information on the GEARs web site about area road hazards to cyclists. The article sought suggestions from members. He reported that only one response was received. With only one response received, he is uncertain whether the postings would receive attention and whether members find the concept useful. Board members expressed the view that the postings could over time be beneficial. Dave will interact with Mike and Jim to further develop the postings on the Advocacy page.

Dave described briefly a discussion he and Jim had about Dave’s perception that law enforcement in Eugene related to property crime is weak. His view is that Eugene residents have normalized outcomes of weak law enforcement such as high rates of bicycle theft and vandalism. His concerns were not allayed after meeting with officers of the Eugene Police Department with Larry and writing an article for

the newsletter about bicycle theft. The EPD emphasized preventive steps that cyclists should take but interventions were not much discussed. The recent theft by an area vagrant of a bicycle, trailer, and gear from a Trans America cyclist were easily anticipated in his view. Dave referred to visiting cyclists as sitting ducks for bicycle thieves who can easily spot and follow them with relative impunity to plan their thefts with little concern for police intervention. Visitors come to Eugene unaware of the lax enforcement of property crime laws and can easily become victims. Jim and Dave wondered whether GEARs has a moral obligation to counter this situation. In an e-mail message to Larry prior to the board meeting, Jim suggested that GEARs consider inviting a representative from the Eugene Police Department to hear our concerns about bicycle theft and to ask for descriptions of efforts to deal with the problem. Dave suggested a related idea where GEARs would sponsor a forum on bicycle theft that would include a panel comprised of city councilors, police officers, and cycling advocates. After a brief discussion, no consensus from the board emerged about whether GEARs should pursue these ideas. Dave noted that GEARs placed recently in its newsletter and on its web site an article about bicycle theft in both Eugene and Springfield.

Concerns were expressed about the needs of homeless persons who occupy bicycle paths and some adjoining areas. Larry has agreed to give a short course on Wednesday, June 20, at the Eugene Mission about bicycle rules of the road and safety. Steve is considering an idea where club members would collaborate with southwest Eugene residents in debris pickup along the Amazon bike path. This effort might encourage homeless persons and vagrants to reduce litter and clear debris from areas that they use.

Dave reminded Karen with regard to bRamble planning that Jeff Blonde, of the Eugene Police Department, requested that bRamble registrants be alerted about the importance of taking steps against bicycle theft while visiting Eugene. Jeff conveyed his request via e-mail to Dave and Larry as a result of theft from the Trans America cyclist mentioned above.

In connection with Bike Appreciation Month-May, Larry reported that the social event held at Ding Ding Cycles near David Minor Theater was well received. GEARs was a co-sponsor and provided funding for beer and snacks. About 15 persons attended. He suggested that GEARs consider sponsoring the event again next year.

**4. Treasurer's Report-** John H. was cycling in France and forwarded a finances snapshot via e-mail in lieu of a full report. He will give the full report for the months of May and June at the next board meeting.

- >PayPal Revenues: \$786 (big up tick with good cycling weather and one \$100 contributor member)
- >Eventbrite (bRamble registrations): \$327
- >Net income (month): -\$1411
- >Net income (year): -\$5410

## 5. Pending Business-

- A. Board Articles for Newsletters – Larry reminded board members to offer articles for the monthly newsletters. Mike asked for articles by noon, Friday, June 15 for the upcoming newsletter.
- B. GEARs Jerseys – Larry anticipates receiving the jerseys by Friday, June 15 and may distribute them by offering a pizza party at his house.
- C. New I-5 Bike Path – Larry hoped to attend and perhaps interact with city officials. Unfortunately, he was not notified by the city of the date and time as anticipated.
- D. Oakridge – GEARs was invited to participate in a planning meeting on efforts to further develop bicycle infrastructure. The city has embraced a goal to become a mecca for mountain biking enthusiasts. The invitation was received with short notice and no one was able to attend.

Veneta/Travel Lane County – Larry did not receive details about the time for the photo and video opportunity related to the construction of a new bike path along Territorial Highway. The intention was to schedule a bike ride to Veneta so members would be present.

## 6. New Business-

- A. Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting – Larry requests that board members forward to him topics that they would like to be included on the next meeting agenda.
- B. 2019 Board Members – Steve noted that the board should identify members who may be interested in serving on the board. He reminded the board that John H. has indicated his intention to step down at the end of this year although he was elected to a two-year term. Additionally, both he (Steve) and Dave Zumbrunnen have terms expiring this year and both have indicated that they will not seek re-election for another term.
- C. Eugene Sunday Streets – Two events are scheduled for July 29 and September 23. The cost for both dates to GEARs for its participation is \$350. A GEARs booth will be staffed at both events and GEARs will participate in the associated parade on July 29.
- D. Eugene Active Transportation Committee – Larry asked that persons who are interested in a place on this committee apply by their deadline of July 1. Dave mentioned that he had applied in 2017 to give an engineer's perspective but was told that his application was declined due to the committee's goal to balance representation among city wards. He suggested that an interested person inquire before submitting an application about current ward preferences.
- E. Other Business – Steve attended a planning meeting on the design of the city riverfront park in the vicinity of the EWEB building on the Willamette River. Karen

attended an open house at the EWEB building that was held to gather input. Mike will provide a link to an on-line survey to encourage input from other GEARs members.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 8:17 PM

Anticipated Time and Place for Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, Stellaria Building (unless otherwise announced).

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Zumbrunnen, Secretary  
Wednesday, June 13, 2018