

Minutes for MBAC April 2007

First a couple of announcements:

Sugarhouse Open House on April 7th. As you may know, Sugarhouse Park is run by a non-profit Board, separate from the rest of the city. They seem to be friendly to cyclists. There will be a paved trail to allow cyclists to enter the Park from 17th East along the south border with an access trail or two leading directly to the current roadway. They are aware of car congestion on the road and are supportive to keep parked cars off the lane designated for bike travel. One of their frequent suggestions was to install more parking lots! (so you know what they are up against). They did receive a complaint from a runner that states bicyclists ride too close and fast, especially a Tuesday night group.

On Wednesday April 4th, Jordan Gates put together a group of people to produce an educational campaign for bike helmets. My comment is that this was probably the most productive meeting/discussion that I have had regarding helmets. This should have been the first step of the helmet issue. Also it appears that everyone in attendance was in favor of an educational approach if a helmet law is enacted (as the MBAC suggested in December). We were told that the educational campaign will occur with or without adoption of the helmet ordinance.

On the morning of April 12th, I witnessed a very near miss bicycle/car collision. Yes, the bicyclist had the “right-of-way” but he completely missed several factors which I will call “reading the intersection” which put him at high risk for an accident within the intersection. Keep safe and consider taking the Road course offered by the Salt Lake Bike Collective.

1. Tim Harpst, the city Transportation Director and Dan Bergenthal discussed the artistic bike racks to be installed downtown. They also discussed the on-road painted bike lanes and segregated bike lanes on sidewalks for slower riders. There was brief discussion and questions, but overall everyone in attendance was in favor of the plans. This will be for the downtown business district only, which is basically 6th South to North Temple and 3rd West to 3rd East. An update with more details will be given at another time.
2. Attendance: Disappointingly, there were only four people in attendance. Shaina Miron from UTA and Jordan Gates, the Mayor’s Environmental Advisor, were unable to attend the meeting. Jonathan Morrison also had a conflict and will give his report of the national bike summit at the next meeting.
3. Update on bike week: Plans are on track for what appears to be a very packed agenda for bike week.
4. Helmets: The City Council should be receiving the draft of the city ordinance by this Friday. The next step is for them to put it on their agenda for public hearings. Lou reported that he spoke with a representative of CUTS (Coalition for Utah Traffic Safety). They were asked by the city to endorse the city ordinance. After the discussion, CUTS will most likely endorse our recommendations. Lou quoted

the spokesperson that a minimum of \$50,000 (perhaps \$75,000) will be needed to educate the public if a helmet law is enacted.

5. MBAC: We are not to use the M in MBAC, therefore we need to have a new name. Lou reported that as he receives more information about becoming an official city committee, the less beneficial it seems to be. There was discussion by Polly Hart stating that we may be able to remain as we are, if we can demonstrate the benefits of our current status. The first need is to come up with a new name. Suggestions were Bicycle Advisory Committee of Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Bicycle Advisory Committee and from Kevin Dwyer simply Salt Lake (City) Bicycle Committee. The benefits of the latter is that we can define what we are (advisory, advocacy, educational, etc) within the mission statement. Lou pointed out that our current name has “advisory” but in the current mission statement we are an “advocacy” group. Further discussion and perhaps a vote are needed at the next meeting. Dan Fazzini suggested that the committee file as a non-profit with the state, a suggestion that gained approval from all in attendance. This will be explored further once we get a new name and define our status with the city.
6. Lou requested a goal or goals for the MBAC. Rather than being a reactionary group, as in the case of the bike helmets, we should take more proactive duties. It was pointed out that the attendance at this meeting was representative of the difficulties to take on added tasks, as everyone in attendance already has two or more other volunteer positions. It was also noted that currently there are five “advisory, advocacy and educational” groups in the county (UBC, University, County BAC, and the Salt Lake Collective) that draw on the current volunteer pool in addition to the numerous racing clubs and the BBTC group. There was brief discussion if the MBAC should merge with another group, be a subcommittee of another group, or simply fold. Suggestions for goals were:
 - (A). Develop a campaign for rider safety emphasizing the importance of cyclists to obey the rules of the road and how to ride a bike safely.
 - (B). Coordinate with “Buy Local” business group to promote their agenda in exchange for goods and services, a resurrection of the pedal pass, or for the arrangement of bike racks at small businesses.
 - (C). Develop a project that would effectively utilize the funds of the MBAC.
 - (D) Develop a plan to attract new, younger?, members to be a part of the MBAC.
7. Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be May 9th. There will be registration stuffing for the Salt Lake Century on May 16th time and place to be announced.

I would like to thank Polly, Dan F. and Kevin for their input at this meeting at this time of potential transition of the MBAC.

Lou Melini
Chair.