

Helena Bicycle Club

Minutes of Meeting

Via Zoom

March 2, 2021

**Members Present:** Dan Dodds**,** Rick Bush, Ellen Bush, Mary Ann Wellbank, Wilbur Rehmann, David Campana, Robert Rasmussen, Jan Campana, Nancy Gillespie, Larry Peterman, Bruce Newell, Sue Newell, Chris Hawkins, Catherine, Matt, Gretchen Krum, Blaire Crum, Cliff Sheets, Dawn Barnes, Gwendolyn Aldrich, Jeff Coward, Mark Hochstetler, John McEwen, Ron Jendro, Dawn Barnes, Jeff Miller, Susan Miller, Cynthia Olson, Crowell Herrick, Jeff Olson, Greg Wheeler, Robert Ray, Gary Wiens, Larry Epstein

President Dan Dodds opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Members introduced themselves.

1. **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Dave Campana moved to approve the January 19, 2021, minutes. Seconded by Rick Bush. Motion passed.

1. **Website updates**

Dan reported that he moved some pages on the website and created new pages for the club ride calendar with placeholders.

1. **Ride Planning**

Dan will be the ride leader for Tuesday night rides once a month. He is looking for volunteers to lead other rides. Also, if anyone wants to suggest a ride, pick a day, and send Dan an email. Do the same thing for route suggestions for Tuesday night rides.

Dave Campana is planning a northern Idaho ride (Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes) the second or third week of August. He will call the hotel and get it set up. Dave will provide ride information to club members well ahead of time. He will also check to see when the Tour de Kookanusa ride is in August to try to avoid conflicts.

Weekly rides should start in May. A Saturday ride may be scheduled in April.

1. **Legislation-HB184**

HB 184 is known as the Bicycle Safety Bill. Dan forwarded information about this legislation from Bike Walk Montana to club members last month. The bill would define a safe passing distance as 3-5 feet. However, there were also some losses for bicyclists. For example, a few years ago the Legislature did away with a law requiring bikes to ride as far to the right as possible, but now it is back in this bill. The bill would mandate that all cyclists wear 200 square inches of high visibility clothing above the waist on roads over 35mph. This doesn’t seem to be required in any other state. The bill has passed the House and has been heard in a Senate committee (Highways and Transportation) but hasn’t passed out of the committee. Dan hear Senate committee members comment that it is not likely to be a pro-bicycle bill when it comes out of committee.

**Updates on January To-Do Items**

Dan contacted Peak 1 Sports about jerseys. The company still has the design from a few years back. For an order of 10-25 jerseys, the price would be a little less than $60.00 apiece. Dan told Peak 1 about HB 184, and the company didn’t know how it would deal with that. Peak 1 could possibly change the color. Dan suggested holding off until we see what happens in the Legislature.

Dan and Dave conducted an inventory of the storage unit. There is a box of shirts from the last Scenic Century, but no medium sizes. They had some ideas for use of the shirts, such as giving people who pay dues a shirt, or selling them on Tuesday nights. There are also insulated polar water bottles and some swag items, and an odd jersey here and there. The club also has a bunch of coolers that may not be needed since the club has not been having big rides. Ideas for distribution are welcome: shoot Dan an email with ideas.

There are a bunch of maps (rides archive) on website. It is possible to convert them for use with GPS programs, but it would not be easy and would require software and knowledge about using the software. If anyone wants to volunteer, that would be great. A discussion ensued. Bruce Newell said that he had originally created the maps and they are probably not entirely accurate. He suggested riding with a GPS and recording travel in order to get a more accurate depiction of the routes.

Crowell volunteered to take a look at them, do as GPS, so they can be downloaded as a GPS file. Bruce Newell said that on each map there is a link to Ride with GPS. It would have to be exported to an off-line file. Dan will look at what is needed and can add the links to the website. Bruce will help, if necessary. He has cleared the rides with Ride with GPS, so they can be posted. The website should also make it clear what tools to use. Dan and Bruce will work on this.

At the January meeting, Gretchen agreed to create posters to advertise the HBC around town, but she needs content for the posters. Dan hasn’t given Gretchen the content yet, but it is on his to-do list

Mary Ann has contacted the Independent Record about getting club information in Summer Things to do in Helena. However, the IR has not been responsive. She contacted the IR three times, most recently sending an email to the individual that has handled Big Sky Cyclery’s ads but has not received a response.

1. **Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held April 6 with a presentation by Keven and Monique Damuth on their cross-country trip last year.

Dan asked if we wanted to have a meeting in May as part of Burger Boogie (May 22). Dave said we usually don’t have a meeting in May.

We have a volunteer to talk about bear awareness for cyclists at an in-person meeting.

1. **Presentation**

Rick and Ellen Bush gave a presentation on their tandem tour of the Katy Trail.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned after the Bushes presentation, approximately 8:15 pm.