

**DAIRYLAND WALKERS BIMONTHLY MEETING
MAIN DOWNTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
APRIL 14, 2004**

Officers Present: Tom McCrill (Co-Vice President); Russ Crane (Treasurer); Karen Reger (Secretary)

In Attendance: 7

Program

At 7:06 p.m., Jill Ruef introduced the night's speaker, who was Robbie Webber from the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin. She is also Madison's 5th District Alderperson. The Bicycle Federation is a statewide nonprofit educational organization. There are offices in Madison and Milwaukee. There are seven full-time equivalent workers between the two offices. They publish an annual bicycling events booklet, which lists all bicycling events in the state. These events are also listed on their website which is www.bfw.org.

Trail etiquette and how to share trails with others was the main topic. The following are not laws but simply common etiquette.

1. **Everyone** using a trail should stay on the right side of the path except to pass.
2. Faster users must yield to slower users. When approaching another user, slow down and give the person plenty of space.
3. Pass on the left when it is safe to do so, and give an audible warning. The DNR will be posting signs regarding trail etiquette on state lands in the future.
4. Always look before changing positions on the trail.
5. Do not block the trail. If you need to stop, move to the side or off the trail.
6. If a bicyclist wants to go faster than the traffic on a path will allow, it may be better to ride in the street.

Other items of interest:

On a road, walkers are legally obligated to step off the road for vehicular traffic.

The words "bike path" are going to be replaced by just the word "path" as signs are replaced, at least in the Madison area.

A motorist passing a bicyclist in the same lane is required to give the bicyclist at least three feet of clearance. If the bicyclist is in the middle of a right-hand lane on a four-lane street, the car would thus be able to pass in the left lane with the required clearance.

Bikes may be ridden on the shoulder of a highway unless prohibited by authorities or unless there is an obstruction.

It is legal for two bikes to be abreast as long as they do not impede traffic. If they would be an impediment, they should then ride single file. Sometimes it is easier to pass a group of bike riders riding two abreast than it is a long line of single riders.

(over)

A note to motorists - posted speed limits are limits which are reasonable and prudent according to road conditions, but conditions are not always the same.

Motorists have to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk or at a corner. You have to step off the curb before they have to yield. Jay walking is not illegal, as long as you do not impede traffic. Wisconsin law says a pedestrian cannot abruptly move into traffic – a motorist would not legally be at fault for any accident in that scenario. Red flags have been introduced at some Madison intersections to increase pedestrians' visibility.

The question was asked as to whether there would be a trail along Highway 12. As far as the speaker knew, there would either be a trail or a wide shoulder; but either way, there would be some way to bike up to the Wisconsin River.

Part of the Federation's educational process is to educate highway engineers and planners on paths. They have a contract with the DOT to teach bicycling. They have classes for teachers who take children on rides. They teach people how to commute by bicycle. In this day and age, most children are being driven everywhere and are not being shown that feet and bikes are legitimate forms of transportation.

It's hard to know how many bike accidents occur in the state because police reports are not done unless (1) it also involved a motor vehicle, or (2) there was damage to property owned by any one person of \$1,000 or more. Accidents involving only bikes are not reported.

Meeting

Jill Ruef had brought some treats.

The meeting was called to order by Tom McCrill at 8:15 p.m.

Secretary's Report (Karen Reger)

Karen had several paper copies of the minutes of the last membership meeting on February 17, 2004. These were accepted with no changes.

Treasurer's Report (Russ Crane)

The balance at the last Board meeting on March 11 was \$1,434.59. Since that time, income totaled \$513.00. Donations totaled \$8.00 and dues totaled \$194.00. There were 51 people at the Civil War kick-off event – 12 were free and 39 received credit. Sale of frequent walker coupons totaled \$140.00.

Expenses totaled \$404.07. Of that amount, \$124.23 was spent on the year-round and seasonal events and \$106.64 was spent on three upcoming special events. The website cost \$60.14, and the newsletter cost \$113.06.

The balance as of the meeting was \$1,543.52, which was an increase of \$108.93 from the date of the last Board meeting. The report was accepted.

Patches

Russ also indicated that he had received the AVA patches for the National Physical Fitness and Sports Month (May). He had ordered ten patches, and these will be available at the Syttende Mai walk.

Walk-a-Week (Tom McCrill)

The first Tuesday night walk on April 20 will be the Arboretum walk. These walks will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Russ and Karen have volunteered to lead a group of slower walkers, if there is a need for one.

European Trip (Bonnie Hamer)

Twenty-five people have signed up, but more would be welcome.

Janesville Walk (Bonnie Hamer)

Volunteers are needed for this April 25 walk. It will start from the Parker Education Center at the Rotary Gardens. The building is ordinarily not open on Sunday mornings, but they will have someone open it up at 10:00 a.m. The registration table will be set up outside the building. The walk information and finish tables will be set up inside. The gift shop will also be open. There is a CROP walk being held on the same day.

There will be a prewalk at 2:00 on April 22 at the same starting point. Barb Borde will be doing car pooling. Russ said to let him know what signage will be needed. Since he still has all the equipment in his garage, he and Karen will be at the walk all day. If the equipment has been moved to the storage garage by the time of the Sun Prairie walk, Mary Liebig was informed that she would probably be the first person to break in the new event supply procedure.

Syttende Mai (Tom McCrill)

Jerry Wilson still needs some volunteers. Russ said he and Karen would be at the end, at the finish tables.

Highway Clean-up (Tom McCrill)

Nora's II was having another popular auction in their parking lot, making for a dearth of parking spaces.

Measuring Wheel

Bonnie Hamer had brought back the measuring wheel, and Mary Liebig took it to go over her Sun Prairie route again.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Reger, Secretary.