

Minutes of the October 14, 2020
Meeting of the
Board of Directors of
The New York Cycle Club, Inc.

Via Zoom Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Present were: Peter Storey (Club President), Neile Weissman (Public Relations Director), Gerald Ross (VP of Rides), Julie Blackburn (C Rides Coordinator), Michael Bernstein (A Rides Coordinator), Allan Friedman (ENY Director), Robert Gilbert (Treasurer), Leora Rosenberg (Volunteer Coordinator), Marc Simkin (Content Editor), Natan Elman (Webmaster), Steve Vaccaro (VP of Programs), Edward C. Delk (Secretary), and Kym Blanchard (Membership Director).

Peter, as President, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Approval of September Minutes

On motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the September 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Elections Update

Peter provided an update on the scheduled election of officers and directors of the Club. He noted that the only contested office was the C-Rides Coordinator. The board discussed potential alternatives for contested office candidates to distribute campaign materials. Peter proposed that candidates be allowed to post a written statement on the Club's website and Facebook page, subject to a ban on disparaging content. The proposal was seconded and approved by the Board.

3. Ride Leader Questionnaire

Peter provided Neile an opportunity to describe his proposal for the Club to sponsor a ride leader questionnaire. According to Neile, the questionnaire would enable participants in group rides to provide the Club with feedback on the quality of the ride and its leader(s). Neile reported that he continues to work on a draft questionnaire for future review and consideration by the Board.

4. Holiday Party

The next topic for consideration was whether the Club should sponsor its annual Holiday Party in 2020. Peter said this year was different than others because of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions on social gatherings. According to Peter, the 2019 party included approximately 180 members in a single venue. Marc suggested that the Club provide members with commemorative water bottles instead of sponsoring an in-person event. Allan suggested that the Club

instead provide gaiters or masks, which he thought could be purchased for as low as \$3-\$4 per item. Kym suggested that the Club distribute items at a central location “while supplies last”. Steve suggested that the Club organize several outdoor “meet-ups” where members could receive their item during the course of their own bike rides.

The Board discussed these and other alternatives. Based on the discussion, Peter proposed that the Club investigate the cost and feasibility of providing a limited number of commemorative gaiters and/or masks that would be distributed to Club members who sign-up in advance to receive one (subject to availability). The items would be distributed outdoors from a bike shop located in Manhattan and another in Fort Lee near the George Washington Bridge. Board members would hand out items in person (possibly with hot coffee) using appropriate safety protocols on two weekends sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Peter assigned responsibilities to different Board members with reports due at the next meeting.

5. Report from Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Members of the D&I Committee provided an update on its activities. The committee has met three times and adopted a written charter. The charter includes the following purposes: (1) raising the Club’s profile in underrepresented communities; (2) increasing representation of underrepresented communities in the Club’s leadership; (3) making the Club more welcoming and inclusive; and (4) working with and supporting organizations that promote cycling to underrepresented populations and advocate for sustainable transportation solutions. Committee members described their efforts to contact and potentially collaborate with other cycling organizations meeting the charter criteria. They also described a project to develop a questionnaire or census through which the Club could obtain demographic and other information from its members. This information would provide concrete data on Club diversity and interests, which could in turn help inform future programming and outreach efforts.

6. Report from Ad Hoc Committee

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee gave an update on their review of potential ways the Club could provide additional support to Kids Ride Club. The Board members discussed a memorandum from the committee. The memo described the committee’s work, meetings and progress to date. The memo requested additional time to complete the committee’s assignment and present a formal recommendation before the board’s December meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved to give the committee the time it requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.