

Minutes of the December 2, 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 (outgoing C Rides Coordinator), Michael Bernstein (A Rides Coordinator), Colin Taber (B-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), Kym Blanchard (Membership Director and Ana Carolina Curi (incoming Special Events Coordinator).

Peter, as President, called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

1. Welcome to Ana Carolina Curi and Linda Wintner

Peter welcomed two new incoming Board members: Ana Carolina Curi, who was elected Special Events Coordinator, and Linda Wintner, who was elected C-Rides Coordinator. Peter also confirmed the election of the other Board members to their respective positions.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Gaiter and Mask Giveaway

Allan led a discussion of the planned Club giveaway of NYCC-branded gaiters and masks to interested members in lieu of a Holiday Party. Allan described the arrangements he made to acquire and distribute the items. He said the event would be conducted at [Strictly Bicycles](#) in Fort Lee and [Strictly Cycling Collective](#) at Hudson Yards at no cost through arrangements Ed Delk negotiated with the owner, Nelson Gutierrez. Both giveaways would include free coffee and run from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on December 12th and 19th.

4. Revisiting COVID-19 Riding Rules

Peter began a discussion concerning a proposal to update NYCC's guidance on COVID-19 protocols for group rides. He referenced draft text distributed to Board members in advance of the meeting. The board discussed the topic. Peter agreed with a suggestion that guidance should be reviewed by Club members Dr. Fishkin and Dr. Zisfein. Other Board members suggested the finalized guidance appear in group ride listings, the ride disclaimer/waiver form, and the website carousel.

5. Report from Ad Hoc Committee (aka Investments Committee)

The board received a report from the Ad Hoc Committee. In advance of the meeting, the committee co-chairs Leora and Ed distributed to Board members a memo entitled “Proposal to Provide Insurance Coverage for Kids Ride Club”, dated December 2, 2020. Ed explained that the committee was formed to consider Jerry’s suggestion that NYCC provide additional support to Kids Ride Club (“KRC”) in light of the decision by Bike New York, Inc. (“Bike New York”) and its Recycle-A-Bicycle division to discontinue their financial support to KRC.

The memo provides background on KRC and its long association with NYCC. Kids Ride Club was founded in 1995 by Dr. Edward R. Fishkin (Chief Medical Officer, NYC Health+Hospitals – Woodhull, and NYCC lifetime member) with Karen Overton (Director, Recycle-A-Bicycle) in 1995. Kids Ride Club was established as a New York recreational cycling club for school children, with adult volunteers. KRC has three goals: (1) encouraging children to permanently incorporate cycling into their daily lifestyles; (2) educating children about proper nutrition and health concerns in general; and (3) focusing on children’s education and career development. Each year KRC introduces approximately 130 kids to the benefits and enjoyment of cycling. The children are recruited from public schools in Williamsburg, Bedford Stuyvesant, Bushwick, Long Island City, Manhattan and the Bronx. The club organizes approximately 15 group bike rides on Fridays and Sundays between May and October each year. The rides continued on a modified schedule in 2020 and are supervised by the children’s parents and adult volunteers. KRC operates out of a 1,500 square foot storage unit located at 46-01 5th Street in Long Island City. The unit holds bicycles, replacement parts, tools, water bottles, and other in-kind donations.

According to the memo, Kids Ride Club has been supported by the volunteer efforts and financial contributions of Dr. Fishkin, Ms. Overton, certain NYCC members, other individuals, and several nonprofit organizations. The primary nonprofit donors include NYC Health+Hospitals – Woodhull (“Woodhull Hospital”), Bike New York, Recycle-A-Bicycle, and New York Cycle Club. NYCC’s donations to KRC are sourced from the net profits of its annual Escape New York bicycle ride (“ENY”).¹ Ed noted that Dr. Fishkin and Ms. Overton are making arrangements to transfer the lease for KRC’s storage unit from Bike New York to the Woodhull Hospital auxiliary. The memo states that Recycle-A-Bicycle is discontinuing its prior arrangement to maintain (1) a liability insurance policy covering group rides, meetings and other activities of KRC (the “Liability Policy”) and (2) a rental insurance policy (the “Rental Policy”) covering the contents of the LIC storage unit.

¹ NYCC currently operates as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The application for tax exempt status included the following description of the Club’s support of other charities: “Any profits of ENY (this year they are approximately \$50,000) are distributed to several cycling-related charities, including ‘Kids’ Ride Club’ which provides bicycles for children who can’t afford to purchase a bicycle and conducts educational rides for approximately 150 children throughout the cycling season. Another charity supported by ENY is known as ‘I challenge myself’ which focuses on disadvantaged children, teaching them how to ride.”

Leora and Ed then described the committee's proposal that the Club use a portion of the ENY net profits that have already been allocated to Kids Ride Club (approximately \$5,000) to purchase a new Liability Policy and a new Rental Policy, each for a two-year period. They said the Liability Policy should cost approximately \$600 and the Rental Policy is expected to range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. According to Ed, the committee believes NYCC's remaining KRC budget should be largely devoted to replacing the expiring insurance policies. This would provide near-term stability to KRC as it seeks new financial support from other nonprofits to replace the support previously provided by Bike New York and Recycle-A-Bicycle.

Leora explained that the committee has two non-financial proposals for deepening the NYCC's relationship with KRC. First, the committee recommends that NYCC invite KRC as a partner for future Club events. Second, the committee believes NYCC should consider the opportunity for ENY to give up its current storage unit at 135th Street and Riverside (under a month-to-month rental at \$290) in favor of renting a share of KRC's storage unit, which is significantly larger. Leora emphasized that the committee believes the specifics of any potential leasing arrangement are best worked out by the ENY Director rather than by the committee or the Board.

The Board discussed the proposals. Among other points raised during the meeting, one member asked whether rental insurance could be established by NYCC for the benefit of KRC's LIC storage unit, rather than in the name of NYCC. Jerry and Ed confirmed this could be arranged. After additional discussion, Peter suggested that the Board hold over the discussion to January 2021 once the proposed insurance arrangements are finalized and ready for approval. The Board agreed by consent.

6. E-Bikes Proposal

Peter invited Jerry to describe the draft set of guidelines he proposed the Club adopt to govern the use of electronic bicycles (or "e-bikes") during group rides. The guidelines were set forth in a memo entitled "E-BIKES ON NYCC RIDES", which Jerry distributed to Board members in advance of the meeting. Jerry said the guidelines had been drafted by a small group, and that the lion's share of the work was done by Carol Waaser. The guidelines describe the benefits of e-bikes and identify certain safety and practical challenges that arise from their use in group rides. The guidelines then establish rules on which e-bikes are permitted and specify the responsibilities of e-bike operators. The Board discussed the guidelines in detail as well as a variety of potential scenarios. Jerry agreed to refine the draft guidelines based on the discussion and present a revised version at a future meeting.

7. “Explore Your City” Trademark

Julie proposed that NYCC to use her registered trademark “Explore Your City” to promote C-rides organized by the Club.² Julie explained that she created the trademark to cover arranging, organizing, and conducting cycling trips. She said NYCC could use the trademark to energize C-rides and encourage people to explore New York City and ride locally. She said this was consistent with the social and friendly exploratory pace and purpose of C-rides. Julie said she would work with the new C-Rides Coordinator (Linda Wintner) in 2021 to list C-rides under the trademark. Peter said the proposal could be managed as a pilot study for a one-year period to promote growth in the C-ride program. Peter also expressed his appreciation for Julie’s work as C-Ride Coordinator in rebuilding the C-rides program from scratch into a successful Club activity. The proposal was seconded and approved by the Board.

8. No-Shows on Group Rides

Peter and Neile discussed an emerging problem with late withdrawals from group rides and no-shows. They described how this behavior disrupts scheduled rides by effectively eliminating the opportunity for the inclusion of members on the wait list. Neile noted that this problem is especially challenging with the reduced number and size of group rides as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board discussed potential solutions, such as mid-week reminders, establishing a deadline for sign-ups, and encouraging members to withdraw from a ride well before this deadline to enable the inclusion of members from the waitlist. Peter noted that these ideas could be socialized by Ride Coordinators and implemented by ride leaders.

9. Escape New York Report

Allan and Bob agreed to provide an update on the financial results of Escape New York at the next Board meeting in January 2021.

10. December Club Meeting

Steve described his plan for the Club meeting in December to focus on cold-weather riding tips. The tips would be presented through short videos created by volunteers from the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

² See <https://trademarks.justia.com/874/65/explore-your-87465723.html>.