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Minutes of the January 3, 2017 Meeting
of the
Board of Directors
of the
New York Cycle Club

Present were: Christy Guzzetta (President), Jerry Ross (VP Rides), Eden Weiss (VP Programs), Steve Musso (Treasurer), Israel Forst (Webmaster), Bob Gilbert (Special Events Coordinator), Michelle Gordon (Content Editor), Michael Gately (A Rides Coordinator), Jim Finder (B Rides Coordinator), Karla Bonne (C Rides Coordinator), Linda Wintner (Escape New York Director), Gabby Warshawer (Volunteer Coordinator) and Peter Storey (Secretary).

Christy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Election of Volunteer Coordinator.

Chris Hartman's other commitments having necessitated his resignation from the Board, Gabby Warshawer was **elected** Volunteer Coordinator for the remainder of 2017.

2. Approval of December Minutes.

Following minor amendments, on motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the December meeting were **approved**.

3. Holiday Party.

Bob reported that our Holiday Party signups totaled 125, of which 113 showed up. We budgeted a Club contribution of \$3,000, raised \$1,925 in ticket sales and spent \$5,100, essentially breaking even. Next year we will look for a larger venue (on the order of 150 guests), although Bob cautioned that holiday period minimums will be high. Eden raised the possibility that next year we might consider Connolly's, and Michael restated his belief that Club events should not have the effect of excluding members who wish to attend.

4. Volunteer Party.

It was suggested that the Volunteer Party be held at the Korean restaurant where it had been held previously. Gabby volunteered to check it out. Bob said he was looking at February 28th, from 6:30 to 9:30.

5. Incentive Program Changes.

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Discussion segued into a discussion of our current incentives program for ride leaders and other volunteers. Under the present system, incentive points, regardless of number, may be redeemed for only one item of merchandise per year. After discussion and on motions duly made and seconded, the Board **voted**:

- To permit incentive points to be redeemed for up to three items in any one year (assuming the holder has the requisite number of points for the items selected); and
- To implement the foregoing change beginning in 2018 with incentive points earned in 2017.

Incentive points earned in 2016 will be continue to be redeemable for only a single item of merchandise.¹

6. Treasurer's Report

Steve reported that at year's end we had \$135,512.95 in checking and savings. The Club's revenues net of expenses for the year were \$24,563.38.

7. Programs.

Eden reported that the January Club meeting will be titled "The Advocates: Priorities for 2017" and will be presented by Paul Steely White of Transportation Alternatives and Cyndi Steiner of the New Jersey Bike / Walk Coalition. The meeting will be sponsored by Pactimo, which has contributed \$1500 in merchandise to the raffle. In addition, a "no purchase necessary" contest for \$600 worth of cycling apparel (\$300 each for both a male and female winner) has been added to Pactimo's original donation of \$1500. Eden emphasized that the meeting will be held at Connolly's other location at 14 East 47th Street, at the regular time.

February's meeting will be our usual SIG / STS information session and will be sponsored by Rapha with raffle prizes amounting to \$3,000. The new NYCC racing team will also present at the meeting along with the SIG and STS Captains.

Future meetings have been planned through May, and sponsorships through June. Details will follow.

Michael raised the issue of how meeting attendance could be bolstered and whether there might be a role for the Membership Director in that.

8. ENY.

¹ Subsequent to the meeting, Israel confirmed that these changes will require a substantial reworking of the software we currently use for the incentives program.

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Linda reported that, subject to final confirmation by NYC Parks (Sakura), ENY will be held on September 16th. On present information, ENY will not conflict with any other major cycling event in the area.

9. *Anonymous Members.*

Jim and Christy reported that the two outstanding cases of members refusing to give mandatory membership information have been resolved satisfactorily.

10. *Investments: Berkshires.*

Christy said that he wants to hold a party in the Berkshires over Memorial Day weekend for which he expects to ask the Club for a contribution to keep the ticket price down. No amount was specified.

11. *Facebook and Twitter.*

Gabby agreed to find volunteers to take over running our Facebook page and Twitter account. These volunteers would take content from the Membership Director, the VP Programs and other content generators and generally moderate those facilities.

12. *Backup Issues.*

The backup committee, consisting of Steve, Bob and Jerry had nothing to report at this time.

13. *Trial Membership.*

Discussion of this topic was postponed to next month.

14. *Young Member Social.*

Christy expressed concern that younger members were not being adequately integrated into the Club, and Michelle echoed that concern. Christy therefore proposed that we host a Young Members' Social for Club members under 40. A venue has been located, and we will be required to guarantee a \$500 minimum. Concerns were expressed about an event that would not be open to all members and a proposal was offered to instead hold a gathering for new members of whatever age. In the end, the Board **approved** Christy's original idea and **voted** to guarantee the minimum.

15. *2016 ENY.*

Steve reported that the net proceeds of ENY 2016 came to \$1,334. There will therefore

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be no separate party for the ENY volunteers, although they will welcome to attend the Volunteer Party normally held for other volunteers.

A proposal to add \$3,700 of general Club funds to the ENY net for a total charitable contribution of \$5,000 was tabled until next month, in part to allow Christy to follow up with the 2016 ENY Committee on how they wish to proceed.

16. Seven Lakes Drive.

A member's letter to the Board outlined the following issue with regard to Seven Lakes Drive. Because Seven Lakes Drive merges into the Palisades Parkway for a short distance between Tiorati Circle and Perkins Memorial Drive, it is not legally possible to ride the full length of the Drive. This means that one cannot, for example, enter Harriman State Park via Gate Hill Road, proceed to Perkins and continue on across the Bear Mountain Bridge. The letter writer was informed by the Palisades Park Police that the no-bike ban will be enforced and that, contrary to some advice received previously, it is not permissible to walk one's bike along the side of the Parkway. The letter asked the Board to consider the issue.

In discussion, it was noted that this situation had persisted for years with varying levels of enforcement, and concern was expressed that initiating an advocacy for change might only raise the profile of the issue as an enforcement priority. The consensus of the Board is to monitor the situation for the present. The VP Rides and the three Ride Coordinators will advise ride leaders and SIG Captains to be aware of the possibility of enforcement action if they lead their rides over that portion of the Drive, and Christy and Peter will collaborate on a response to the letter writer.

17. Calendar.

With small changes, the draft calendar of Club events previously circulated by Bob was **approved** and ordered to be filed with the minutes and posted to the relevant pages of the website.

18. Anonymous Message Board Postings.

Christy asked what we could do to eliminate anonymous Message Board postings. Israel said that we have the right to take them down, and often do, but it's basically a question of enforcement of existing rules, rather than writing new ones. Eden disagreed in part, feeling that it was important to make an explicit rule against such postings. Christy agreed with Eden, even if the prohibition might not be enforced entirely effectively. The Board **voted** to bar anonymous postings, and directed Christy and Peter to formulate the text of the rule.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

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/s/ Peter K. Storey

Secretary