

**“CYCLE BROOKFIELD” MEETING RECAP  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024  
LSF BROOKFIELD LIBRARY**

Chris Valadez called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present:

Andy Caron, Joan Engstrom, Robin Fuener, Elaine Jans, Miro Ledajaks, Carolyn Morris, Joe O’Conner, Chris Rios, Joe Seymour, Karl Sokol, Chris Valadez

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

1.1 January, 2023 Summit Recap: In lieu of written minutes, Chris V. gave a verbal summary of the Annual Summit. The 2024 slate of officers were voted in unanimously, and are as follows: Chris Valadez, President; Joe O’Connor, Vice President, Peter Janunas, Treasurer; and Elaine Jans, Secretary. In addition to the officers, there are two directors: Thanks were given to outgoing officers for their work and support for the past years: Ken Knasiak, Miro Ledajaks, and Terri Rivera.

The Summit was well attended. Guest speakers were: Mike Garvey, President/Village of Brookfield; Amy Rynell, Executive Director/Active Transportation and Dawn Piech, Inspyrd MovementTM. Speakers from Cycle Brookfield included: Chris Valadez, Joe O’Conner and Joe Seymour. Three posters signed by 2023 Intelligentsia winners were sold via Silent Auction. Raffle prizes were given out. Food and beverages were provided.

Motion was made by Joe O to approve the verbal Annual Summit minutes as stated by Chris V., and motion was seconded by Andy C. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Past Events Report:**

2.1 February Movie

In place of the “First Friday Ride,” the movie “Slaying the Badger” was presented on 2/2/2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Compassion Factory. About 12 people attended. Pizza and beverages were available. It was suggested that notice for movies and events should be given at least one week prior. It was also suggested that for future movies, a list be posted on Facebook, and members can suggest which movie they would prefer.

**3. Current Business Review:**

3.1 Finances – Newly elected Treasurer, Peter J. was not available to attend the meeting. Miro L. stated that the current balance in the Cycle Brookfield account is \$3,662.59. The Annual Summit brought in \$293 in cash and \$342.94 via credit card. The total amount represents member sign ups, Silent Auction items, and Cycle Brookfield and Criterium t-shirt purchases.

It was discussed that the finances should be reconciled before the books are turned over to Pete J.

3.2 Membership – Joe O. reported that there are currently 42 members for 2024 – 37 renewals and 5 new. It was discussed that an email reminder will be sent out in March for members to renew, and possible followed by a paper mailing at a later date.

Chris V. indicated that he is looking into the possibility of an “auto-renew” function for the Website.

3.3 Inventory Review – Miro J. indicated that there are about 50 Criterium t-shirts, and a few Mens' Fashion, Polyester and Ladies Heather t-shirts available. It was suggested to offer them on Facebook at a discount along with the announcement of the 2024 Crit, or give them away to a charitable organization. Currently t-shirts are delivered free to addresses in Brookfield, and a shipping charge of \$8.00 is applied to orders from non-Brookfield purchasers.

Chris R. offered to be in charge of inventory. Other Cycle Brookfield members indicated they would be happy to help with inventory at events. Andy C. suggested that when new t-shirts are ordered, members should order and pay for t-shirts first, and then t-shirts would be ordered, so as to reduce the leftover inventory.

### 3.4 Engagement

3.1.1 Joe S. announced that he recommended Chris V. to be on the board of the Cook County Bike Advisory Committee, as they were looking for a representative from Western Cook County.

3.1.2 Collaboration continues on the 31<sup>st</sup> Street and Brookfield Zoo projects. They are both in Phase 1, and will go through Phase 2, with Phase 3 being when construction will start. While these projects will take time, it is hoped that they will come to completion.

3.1.3 Chris V. and Pete J. met with two individuals who want to start a Cycle Club in Riverside, and there has also been indication from another individual that Westchester is also interested in forming a cycle club. Chris V. discussed giving these potential clubs a “template” for starting such a group, and has indicated to them that it takes time and diligence to get a group going. Chris V. discussed the possibility of having other Cycle clubs under the Cycle Brookfield “umbrella,” and will investigate the legalities of doing this. It was suggested by Andy C. that perhaps these groups could be named “Cycle Riverside,” and “Cycle Westchester” with the thought of continuity and visibility.

3.1.4 Active Transportation Alliance is having Street Team Advocate training on Tuesday, March 12, 6-8pm (virtual) and Monday, March 25, 6-8pm (in person). This training will help build transportation knowledge and advocacy skills.

### 3.5 Village Planning Updates

3.5.1 Emily Egan resigned as Director of Community Development for the Village of Brookfield

3.5.2 Brookfield will be making improvements to the area connecting Southview Avenue with the north side of the Congress Park Metra tunnel after being awarded a grant from Cook County. The improvements could also include landscaping, benches, bicycle racks, etc.

### 3.6. Social Media Updates – None

3.7. General Fundraising -- Chris V. indicated that Cycle Brookfield will be focusing on more fundraising, and asks that members suggest ideas.

### 3.8. Intelligentsia Cup 2024 – Chris V.

Chris V. announced that the Village of Brookfield Board approved their support for the 2024 Intelligentsia Cup. The Board is also looking to shut down the Prairie Avenue train crossing which will not only provide safety for the attendees, but will also be a cost saving for the Village. An Intelligentsia Committee will be formed by Cycle Brookfield members. Cycle Brookfield will also reach out to other groups to assist in planning, etc.

#### **4. Upcoming Events:**

##### **4.1 March Indoor Event**

Dawn Piech, Inspyrd Movement™, has offered to do a presentation on “Randonneuring (Bike Packing),” which is a long distance cycling sport. Chris V. will get back to her to confirm a date and time.

#### **5. New Business:**

##### **5.1. AARP Microgrant – Joe Seymour**

Joe S. is submitting an application to the AARP Community Challenge. The application for a \$2,500 Microgrant will be for the new Bike Audits category, which implements bike audit assessments to enhance safety and bikeability in communities-- especially for people age 50-plus. If Cycle Brookfield wins this grant, it would enhance visibility with the League of American Bicyclists. It was suggested that Brookfield Aging Well Team and Brookfield Womens’ Club would participate in the audit. Joe S. will be submitting the application to AARP which is due March 6, 2024 and has a fee of \$25.00. Motion was made by Joe O. to approve the \$25.00 fee and seconded by Karl S. Motion passed unanimously.

##### **5.2 Inspyrd Movement™ 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Women’s Day—Together We Ride – March 8-11, 2024.**

It was suggested that since Dawn Piech of Inspyrd has been so supportive of Cycle Brookfield, that some activity be done during the Together We Ride week. During this week, participants are encouraged to ride their bikes anywhere, any distance, outdoors or inside, in a group or solo. Elaine J. suggested that Cycle Brookfield members post pictures of themselves on bicycles on Cycle Brookfield Facebook during the week of March 8-11. Joe O suggested a group ride.

##### **6. Open – No comments**

Motion was made to end the Cycle Brookfield meeting at 8:31 p.m. by Andy C. and seconded by Carolyn M. Motion passed unanimously.

The next 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday meeting will be held on March 21, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Linda Sokol Francis Brookfield Library—Lower Level Meeting Room #2.

Minutes submitted by: Elaine Jans, Secretary