

Edmonton Bicycle Commuters, President's Report, January 2012

Introduction

Thank you to everyone for working together so well at this exciting time. Things are obviously happening very quickly, and it's a big help when everyone is staying abreast of what's new and contributing where they can.

New Space

I think everyone is aware of what's happening. I'd really like to see a broken-down and researched budget as soon as possible. Actually I'd like to see two budgets: the budget where we decide how much we can spend on the space in total and the budget where we learn what we can get for that.

I think we can anticipate discussing locking systems at the board meeting (electronic cards vs. the present high-security keys).

Performance Evaluations

The HR committee will deliver its review of Anna's performance at the Feb 9th meeting. A performance review for Alex is not being done at this time.

MEC reporting

As was mentioned in his report, Alex will quickly design and print some rental publicity and submit a final report, claiming the full amount of the grant.

Board Development Workshop

Thanks to Anna for booking and the board for participating. I think we identified a lot of good work we can do to start paying off EBC's governance deficits. Let's get to work on things that struck us from the workshop, but also bare in mind that they don't have to all happen right away: above all we've got a space to open and fill with people.

Implementing a Committee Structure

The next few months will be a bit of a bottleneck for EBC. Implementing a truly decentralized committee structure, with some operational objectives in addition to governance ones, may help us get through this. Some of the committees we may need will be temporary and will differ from the committees we currently have. Some possible examples:

1. Bikeworks committee-- should include Neil and needs to really make sure the redo of the space is happening within budget and is utilizing the best help we can get in terms of volunteers and donations. Will be different in focus from what bikeworks committee would usually be.
2. Publicity/Grand Opening-- we will need a big push to fill the new location with clients right away. Brett has already volunteered to deliver flyers:)

3. Volunteer-- likewise, the new space will need volunteers. Making sure mechanical classes are offered to prospective volunteers could also be a focus of this committee.

4. HR-- to oversee hiring of summer staff. Deadlines will be coming up.

Spoke meeting Jan 30th 2012

Chris C, Anna V, Kris A, Elicia E, Adam B, Derek, Matt, Gina, Dave (spoke volunteers); Rotary people send regrets.

-Elicia: Occupational Health and Safety? We don't want to get bogged down in city stuff forever, but we don't want to get shut down a month after we open.

Course for Spoke volunteers:

-WE NEED TO ESTABLISH WHAT JOHN CAN COMMIT TO, OR FIND ANOTHER INSTRUCTOR.

-could happen south if north shop isn't ready, but possible in a bare-bones shop, which might even encourage volunteer engagement in the renos.

Referrals:

-Kris is now supervisor of two new-hired social workers @Alberta Ave

-believes a NET will be announced soon for McCauley

-they can pump out referrals.

-goal: figure out a more sustainable nomination process.

-Adam: EBC staff/volunteers can be no part of nominating/assessing the kids. That's a whole new skill set that we can't ask our people to have.

Messaging: -Carolyn will draft.

EVEN JUST FOR US, WITH OUR NEW LOCATION, WE NEED APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE AROUND "LOW INCOME," ETC. I FOR ONE DON'T HAVE THIS EXPERIENCE.

-This would benefit our north volunteers too.

ATTN ALEX: Kris A's father is a welder and can help with the railing (--made-out-of-bike-frames?).

Elicia and Chris C, strongly: We need a volunteer with experience as a project management in commercial spaces to advise Alex, and maybe look at the larger questions (i.e. Not the design of shelves and cabinets but ... structural, electrical, "code")

[Update: someone has been found who is an engineer and a "green buildings guru," but I wonder if his skill set might be loftier than what we really need, so let's make sure we're following up on any other leads too.]

Next meeting Monday Feb 27th, 630 pm, bikeworks north.

Meeting with City of Edmonton's Transportation Public Engagement team, Jan 27th 2012

Adam B, Karly Coleman, Dot Liang + two other from the team.

-They are a small, new team in the last 7 months.

- Interested in people who are contemplating shifting modes.
- Their focus is on "maybe just try it once a week," not people who are already hardcore commuters
- They have research on obstacles to starting cycling, which they will forward to us.
 - did 6 focus groups seniors to teens
 - then did a sampling of 1000: questions on barriers, motivators

- They can support our events with the city's social media (if they can describe it as falling within their mandate)
- they can get the new location opening onto there

-We would be welcome to send volunteers to their events to talk to people about commuting (I didn't think we really had the manpower for this right now)

We should get them info about rentals, because they get questions about that.

- They can take some of the paper we're going to print.

-FYI from Karly Coleman, the Chris Chan repairs-in-schools grant from MEC expires at a certain point, and that's a problem for EBC.

They are working on the next incarnation of the bike map

- They are planning a process of getting feedback about what people want to see in a physical and online map; starting in the spring we should expect them to contact us for consultation.

Conclusion

That's what happened to me.

Adam Burgess, Feb 1, 2012.