

Bike Fitchburg - April 2026 Meeting Minutes

Bike Fitchburg makes biking and walking easier, safer and more fun in Fitchburg, Wisconsin



Date April 27, 2026

Call to Order Time 7:00 PM

Location Fitchburg Senior Center, Syene Room

Timekeeper Steve Arnold

Board Members Present

- Mark Wilkerson, President
- Mark Hamilton, Secretary
- Steve Arnold, Treasurer
- Darryl Jordan, Past President
- Noah Sunderman, Director
- Mike Grady, Director
- Tony Hartmann, Director

Advisors Present

- Kay Lum, Advisor

Guests

- Mark Mertz (Terravessa resident)
- Bill Jetzer (Fitchburg City Council)

Introductory Remarks Welcome to guest Mark Mertz, a longtime cyclist from the Terravessa neighborhood seeking volunteer opportunities. The Board acknowledged Bill Jetzer's transition to the City Council, noting that while he has stepped down from the Board to avoid conflicts of interest, he remains a vital advisor.

1. Approval of Past Minutes

Corrections and Amendments The following specific corrections were requested for the March minutes to ensure the accuracy of the Action Item Registry:

- **Yard Sign Distribution:** Mark Wilkerson was removed as the lead for this task, as he was not assigned to this initiative.
- **Cargo Bike Coordination:** The responsibility for cargo bike coordination was formally corrected to name Mark Wilkerson as the intended lead.

Action: The minutes were approved as amended following a motion by Steve Arnold and a second by Darryl Jordan.

2. Elections and Board Composition

The departure of Bill Jeter necessitated a strategic reorganization of the Board to ensure the Executive Committee remains robust. The Board sought to fill these roles with individuals who could provide continuity in presiding duties while adding specialized technical expertise.

The election of Vice President Noah Sunderman was nominated and elected as Vice President. In terms of strategic impact, this role involves participation in the Executive Committee and providing backup presiding duties. Operatively, the position ensures that the organization can act between formal meetings without imposing a heavy daily administrative burden on the seat holder.

Election of Director Kay Lum, previously serving as a board advisor and webmaster was nominated and elected back to the board after a brief absence.

3. Review of April 2026 Events

The events of April served as the kickoff for the 2026 cycling season, serving as vital touchpoints for community outreach, safety education, and data collection.

3.1 Belmar Hills Park Rodeo Mike Grady reported on the bike rodeo in the Allied neighborhood, held in collaboration with Alder Dave Herbst and **Bikes for Kids Wisconsin**. The event featured an 80-bike giveaway. A primary educational highlight was the "chaos box" skill station—a multi-directional riding area that teaches youth riders how to manage traffic conflicts and maintain predictable patterns.

3.2 Environmental Conservation Fair Steve Arnold detailed the collaboration with Eco-Latinos and the Wisconsin Bike Fed at the Hoci Hosta Community Center. The strategic importance of this event was the provision of bilingual cycling literature. **Navali Miriam** from the Bike Fed provided essential Spanish-language assistance, allowing Bike Fitchburg to reach a more diverse audience with safety guides and maps.

3.3 Celebrate Trails Day This event saw record-breaking engagement with 182 individual interactions. The Board evaluated data collection efforts, comparing manual counts against Telraam automated data to bolster future advocacy for trail funding. Notably, the **Triobike** was utilized to transport gear for the event because the Bike Fed's cargo bike was unavailable due to their staff being on assignment in Wausau.

4. Future Events and Strategic Planning

The upcoming calendar serves the mission of making biking "easier, safer, and more fun" by providing differentiated events for both novice and experienced cyclists.

Joe's Ride / Bicycle Partnership The May 6th event at McKee Farms Park will feature a two-track approach. The Bicycle track, sponsored by the MPO (Roundtrip), includes **15 free rentals** and focuses on education regarding e-bike battery usage, docking, and app navigation. Simultaneously, the traditional Joe's Ride (led by Andy and Mark Hamilton) will cater to those seeking a higher-mileage 15–22 mile experience.

National Bike to Work Week/Day The May 15th flagship event at City Hall will highlight corporate advocacy. The Mayor is expected to present Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) awards to potentially nine businesses, including **four renewals and one new applicant (Promega)**.

Miscellaneous Events

- **Down Syndrome Association Event (May 3):** A partnership at the Lacy Road Fire Station involving a Triobike demonstration and table outreach.
- **Mad City Velo Social Ride:** A monthly social ride (May 20) departing from Seminal Tap.
- **"Rolling Stones" Bike Club:** A targeted community partnership led by Steve Arnold specifically for the residents of the **Cesta** community.

5. Advocacy, Infrastructure, and Program Updates

Madison Traffic Academy Darryl Jordan and Mark Wilkerson are utilizing their participation in this academy to develop a design proposal for the Seminal Highway and Wayland Road intersection, focusing on traffic calming and pedestrian safety.

Cycling Without Age (CWA) The program is now registered as a Wisconsin business. To move forward, the Board must vote on a formal bank account and the purchase of a trailer once tax-exempt status is clarified. Pilot training was successfully completed in Eau Claire, and the Board will now focus on background checks for local pilots.

Greenway System Naming Steve Arnold proposed a formal resolution to name the city’s multi-use path system the "Fitchburg Greenway System." This naming convention is intended to improve wayfinding and increase grant eligibility. The initial signage phase (Whalen to Beltline) is estimated at **\$10,000**.

Public Works (Fitchrona/Lacy Roundabout) Due to current eminent domain laws, the city cannot build bike/ped facilities on land acquired through condemnation. The strategic plan involves lobbying for a legislative fix in early 2027. The **Request for Proposal (RFP)** issued by Ross Kaylor will include an **option** for the contractor to build the paths retroactively or concurrently if the law is amended in time.

Stewart Tunnel Construction on the corrugated steel liner is ongoing, designed to protect cyclists from falling rocks while preserving bat habitats. The project must adhere to a **seasonal shutdown on October 15th** to comply with bat protection requirements.

6. Formal Record of Motions

This section serves as the definitive legal record of Board decisions reached during the April 2026 session.

Motion	Moved/Seconded By	Discussion Summary	Result
Approve March Minutes	Steve Arnold / Darryl Jordan	Corrected yard sign lead (remove Mark W.) and cargo bike lead (add Mark W.).	Approved as Amended

Elect Noah Sunderman as VP	Mark W. / Darryl Jordan	Appointment to Executive Committee with no heavy daily commitment.	Passed Unanimously
Elect Kay Lum as Director	Mark W. / Darryl Jordan	Election to a vacant seat; formalizing her status and webmaster contributions.	Passed Unanimously
Adjournment	Mike Grady / (General)	Conclusion of the April regular session.	Passed

7. Action Item Registry

The following tasks are assigned to ensure accountability and the successful execution of the Board's strategic initiatives.

Action Item	Assigned Lead	Context/Deadline
Update March Minutes	Mark Hamilton	Formalize corrections regarding Mark Wilkerson's responsibilities.
May 3 Fire Station Logistics	Mark Wilkerson	Send event info for the Down Syndrome Association event to the Board.
Tax Exemption & CWA Setup	Mark W. / Steve A.	File for tax exemptions and prepare bank/trailer vote.
CWA Pilot Background Checks	Mark Wilkerson	Contact police regarding fingerprinting and background check protocols.
Greenway Signage Resolution	Steve Arnold	Refine the formal resolution for Greenway naming and signage.
Update Event Posters	Kay Lum / Steve A.	Refresh graphics for Bike Month and upcoming promotional rides.

8. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 20:30.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2026. (Note: Scheduled for the 3rd week of the month to accommodate the Memorial Day holiday).

9. Addendums

a. Treasurer Report - Through April 30, 2026

Checking balance \$9844.07; savings balance \$1804.58

Last month we spent \$35 to file our annual report with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, \$93.87 for snacks for Celebrate Trails Day, \$30 for a Bicycle Benefits starter kit, and three items for Cycling Without Age Fitchburg: \$11.76 for Google Workspace for the month, \$36.56 for lumber for ramps into rental trailers, and \$56.92 for trailer rental. We received \$40 for ¡Pick Me Up! registrations, \$30 from Fairway Lounge for a Bicycle Benefits starter kit, \$146.10 in donations for Cycling Without Age Fitchburg, and \$586.20 for the Kyle Stiegert Greenway (KSG). (While the Friends of the KSG has its own accounts, there is a GoFundMe campaign on-going still connected to our PayPal account). The check for \$2424.03 to The Cargo Bike Shop for trishaw batteries and a four-point harness for the Bike Fed's (and our future) trishaw from Cycling Without Age Fitchburg (CWAFF) funds still has not cleared. Mark W is working to expedite the Cargo Bike Shop order.

We earned \$0.30 in interest on savings.

We distributed one Bicycle Benefits starter kit and bought one to replace it, so net inventory was unchanged.

The checking account balance includes restricted amounts:

- i. \$882.66 from the AARP grant for Greenway System signs (unchanged),
- ii. \$5473.47 in the Cycling Without Age fund (decreased \$105.24), and
- iii. \$50 in registrations for ¡Pick Me Up! for 2026 (increased \$40), and
- vi. \$586.20 in the Kyle Stiegert memorial fund (increased \$586.20).

Future expected transactions include about \$125 for Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) award plaques and more for BFB application fees, another donation of \$100 from Alterra Design Homes for path etiquette signs, and expenses for setting up the CWA Fitchburg non-profit corporation. We will be transferring the Kyle Stiegert memorial fund balance to the Friends' account. We are also coming into the season when we renew our organizational membership in the Bike Fed, Bike League, and Fitchburg Chamber. Funds in our savings account over the minimum deposit are committed to matching future CWA Fitchburg donations.

Board members are reminded that ¡Pick Me Up! registration is **open** and folks are encouraged to make an additional donation to Bike Fitchburg with their \$10 (WI Bike Fed supporters) or \$20 (all others) registration fee. However, **board members** should **not** make donations that way, as RunSignUp takes a percentage as a service fee. When friends and family want to donate to Bike Fitchburg, just write a check to Bike Fitchburg, Inc., and give it to me!

Our net worth decreased by \$128.57 to \$4846.92 in April due to the cost of Wisconsin business registration and snacks for the Celebrate Trails Day recreation station.