

# **BikeAthens Bicycle Recycling Program**

## **2006 Program Accomplishments**

### **Overview:**

In 2006, the Bicycle Recycling Program attempted a partnership with local government, piloted a bicycle repair workshop, moved into a new facility, completed a survey of volunteers and delivered 19 bicycles to children. Due to weather constraints the program did not deliver as many adult bicycles as in previous years.

### **Volunteer and Bicycle Repair Activities**

74 volunteers contributed 267.25 hours of effort to repair and deliver 35 bicycles. The majority of activity occurred after Thanksgiving during the X-Mas Bikes for Kids Activity. The program delivered ten bicycles to Mary Lynn Lane at Fowler Road Elementary on December 15 and nine bicycles to the Athens Area Homeless Shelter (AAHS) on December 22. We also provided 19 adult bicycles to AAHS throughout the year.

The new work space (described below) seemed conducive to bicycle donors and although we currently don't track bicycle donations, I believe that number increased. In late December, ACC Police donated 30 bicycles to the program.

### **Camp Summer Spree**

A new activity for BRP this year was Camp Summer Spree (CSS). Working in conjunction with Becky Lockman (CSS Director), we developed a five-day workshop for camp participants. Five camp leaders participated in the workshop, meeting every morning for four hours during the first week of June. The workshop participants all received a used bicycle at the beginning of the camp and were provided with instructions, tools and parts necessary to repair the bicycles. On the fifth day of the camp, the participants went on a guided bicycle ride along dirt roads in the Whitehall forest. Participants retained their bicycles and helmets at the end of the camp.

CSS provided funds to purchase a basic toolkit (open end wrenches, hex wrenches, combination screwdriver and cleaning brushes for each participant). BRP developed a workbook that included a bicycle repair checklist, basic repair procedures and schematics of various bicycle components. CSS also provided the instructor (Peter Norris) with a stipend for developing and leading the class.

According to camp organizers, the workshop was very successful and BRP has been invited to participate in the camp in 2007. The toolkits and workbooks can be re-used for the next camp.

### **Dudley Park**

In March of 2006, BikeAthens and ACC Leisure Services (ACCLS) entered into negotiations to rent the vacant building in Dudley Park (formerly the East Athens Dance Center. ACCLS (John Devine and Mike Whorton), with input from Dorothy and Peter, drafted a proposal for use of the facility. The proposal delineated how BikeAthens would

use the facility, including the type and number of activities implemented at the facility (see appendix A).

This proposal was presented to John Dargle, Director of Leisure Services. Mr. Dargle submitted the proposal to ACC Legal Council and the Manager's Office. ACC returned the proposal with modifications to the fees, insurance and legal stipulations. BikeAthens was able to provide the appropriate insurance and meet liability stipulations.

In July, Mr. Dargle informed BikeAthens that the proposal must be approved by the ACC Mayor and Commission. The agenda item for the proposal, submitted for inclusion in the August agenda setting meeting, recommended that the Dudley Park facility be demolished. Other options in the agenda item included leaving the facility vacant or charging BikeAthens \$5000 annually for use of the facility and requiring BA to make the facility ADA compliant. After consultation with BA, the mayor removed the item from the agenda and recommended that BikeAthens individually contact commissioners to obtain their support an option in which BA would obtain the facility at a free or nominal cost.

Members of BA board obtained support from seven of sitting commissioners and informed the mayor of that support. At year's end no further action has been taken by the mayor, commission, ACC staff or BikeAthens.

## **A New Home**

In October, BikeAthens rented an 800 square foot studio in the Chase Street Warehouse. The studio protects volunteers from the weather (an issue with previous location); rent includes utilities and provides for a shared bathroom. Although that section of the warehouse is a state of severe disrepair, the studio itself is rather comfortable for work sessions. Volunteers have stated that they enjoy the new location and we have seen an increase in volunteer hours and bicycle donations.

The program did purchase an additional work stand and tools (including those for CSS). Structures for storing wheels and tires were built and additional shelving units obtained (one purchased, another donated).

## **Volunteer Survey**

In the fall of 2006, students in the Management of Non-Profit Organizations masters program at UGA conducted a survey of BRP volunteers. The survey endeavored to determine why volunteers participate and also why we have few volunteers after 2-3 months of activity.

The survey indicated that an overwhelming majority of volunteers enjoy their experience, receive sufficient satisfaction and acknowledgement of their service. It also suggested ways to improve the experience such as providing greater structure for work sessions, increasing the number of work sessions and providing formalized training. Full text of the survey are included in Appendix B. BRP will implement many of these recommendations.

## **Other Goals**

No significant progress was made on the National Bike Registry goal; however, a preliminary discussion with Sgt. Leedham of ACC Police indicated his willingness to be an internal advocate of the initiative.

A bicycle repair workshop for adults was not offered. Materials developed for Camp Summer Spree can be leveraged for future workshops.

### **Expenses and Revenue**

Total program costs for 2006 were \$3,251, with an average of \$92.89 per bicycle delivered. This figure is higher than 2005 because fewer bicycles were repaired (due to weather constraints) and slightly higher facility rental fee. The average variable cost per bicycle is \$22.63 (\$48.20 for 2005) which include costs for parts and supplies but not fixed costs such as rent.

The program entered into a new relationship with Ben's Bicycles; Ben restores old bicycles or converts them to single speed. The program donated some unusable bicycles to Ben and sold others for a revenue of \$690.

The program also restored and auctioned two classic bicycles; the 1978 Raleigh's were originally donated at the beginning of the program in 2002. We established a new relationship with Charlie Mustard of Jittery Joes Roasting Company who sponsored and hosted the auction. We grossed \$290 from the event.