

Decatur Bicycle Club Minutes

December 2, 2025

Location: Thinkwell Makerspace, 120 N Franklin St, Suite D

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Attendance: Michael Graves, Matt Rueff, Gene Fruit, Nichole Binder, Chris Merli, Bonnie Rueff, Ralph Czerwinski, Bryan Spanberger, Chuck Ramsey, Dorothy Miller, and Sam Hughes.

President: Michael reviewed his activities during the month of November in the areas of community outreach, Toys for Tots, governance, and future plans.

Vice President's Report: No Report

Treasurer: Gene presented the current financial status of the club, including discussion about the renewed 5-month CD. Current membership is 48.

Secretary: On November 30, Nancy resigned as the Secretary. Nicole agreed to act as "temporary" Secretary.

Communications: No Report

Annual Ride Coordinator: Chris reported that he is still waiting for Capital City Century to confirm their 2026 dates. Tour of Charleston is scheduled for June 13, 2026. Prairie Pedal is scheduled for September 27, 2026. We are currently looking at September 19, 2026.

Strategic Vision Committee: No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Toys for Tots: Ralph reported that he has coordinated with the Salvation Army for a truck to deliver the bicycles. They will be at Decatur Bicycle Shop on Thursday, December 11th at 11AM to load the bicycles. Ralph, Chuck and Matt will be there to assist with loading. Sam and Bryan are planning to go to the shop on Saturday, December 6th at 10AM to work on and clean the donated bicycles. Scott agreed to the budgeted amount. Donnette Beckett from the Herald and Review took pictures last year. Planning to reach out to her about coverage. Need to make sure we have pictures for social media.

Club Address: Michael discussed the desire to have all mail coming to a single location. Some require a physical address, others will accept a PO Box only. During the discussion we talked about paying somewhere like Mailbox Express for a physical address, then continuing to use the PO Box in Mt. Zion. The issue was tabled until the January meeting.

Constitution & By-Laws: Michael discussed the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws required to bring the Club into compliance with the 501(c)(3) requirements. A Motion was made by Gene and seconded by Sam to change the Amish Country Tour Coordinator to Annual Ride Coordinator and other related changes. Motion passed. After further discussion, a Motion was made by Michael and seconded by Chuck to accept the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. Motion passed.

501(c)(3) Status: Michael provided an update. With the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws an application can be submitted. Hope to complete it within the next week.

Google Workspace for Non-Profits: Michael updated that we can't do this until we have approved 501(c)(3) status.

Community Engagement: Michael talked about wanting the Club to do something in the community for Bicycle Safety Month in May 2026. Gene mentioned the possibility of conducting some sort of safety event at the new bicycle area in Fairview Park. The topic will be discussed in future meetings.

Prairie Pedal: Nichole made contact with Ashton the Prairie Pedal Coordinator at the Macon County Conservation District. Ashton will get in touch with Nichole when planning meetings begin. Prairie Pedal is scheduled for September 27, 2026, the week after the Club Ride in Arthur.

Community Bicycle Maintenance: This was discussed during the community engagement discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership and Ride Registration Platforms: Michael led a discussion about using a free membership and activity registration platform to manage our Club activities, specifically membership and the annual Club ride. After analysis Michael picked Zeffy and GiveButter as the 2 best platforms. A motion was made by Gene and seconded by Chris to create an account on each platform and evaluate performance. Michael will create the accounts, then Matt and Chris will experiment. Motion passed.

Park Tool Community Tool Grant: Michael discussed the grant and proposed we submit an application. A motion was made by Gene and seconded by Matt to submit the grant proposal. During discussion the tools Chris has from the last community project were discussed. Potentially those tools could become part of the bicycle maintenance area at Thinkwell Makerspace. More discussion is needed about the space and storage at Thinkwell Makerspace. Motion passed.

League of American Bicyclists: Michael discussed the benefits of membership. A motion was made by Gene and seconded by Matt that we continue our membership at \$100 per year.

During discussion the issue of insurance was discussed because the insurance offered by LAB is more about liability of the club for fraud. Ride insurance is something else. Motion passed.

Ride Illinois: Michael discussed the benefits of membership, even though they no longer publish a printed Ride Guide. A motion was made by Gene and seconded by Nicole that we continue our membership at \$100 per year. Motion passed.

2026 Meeting Schedule: Meetings will continue to be held on the second Monday of each month. Will either be at the Library or Thinkwell Makerspace. A discussion was held about the possibility of offering a virtual meeting option (Google Meet) for increased participation. The next meeting will be Officers and Committee Chairs only and will be held on January 12, 2026. The February 9th meeting will be open to all club members.

Secretary Resignation: According to the By-Laws, the President may appoint a replacement. A search for a volunteer will be conducted.

Motion to adjourn was made by Michael and seconded by Sam. No discussion. Motion passed.

Submitted by: Nicole Binder, Acting Secretary

Approved by: Michael Graves, President