



Working Bikes General Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

June 4, 2025; 6:30-8:00 PM

Our Mission is to strengthen local and global communities by giving donated bicycles new life and redistributing them as tools for self-determination.

Our Vision is to work toward a world where everyone has access to bicycle transportation – whether in Africa, Latin America, or Chicago – and where bicycles are the most reliable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly transportation available!

In attendance: Colette B, Finn H, Phil K, Charlie O, Evan A, Glenn S, Carolyn W, Amy L, Abdul Karim K, Dave G, Faraz H, Ed H, Kathleen G, Claire M, Trevor C, Lee R / Zoom: Michael S., Tom M., Jane, Frank R., Allison H., Al R., Alex R

1. **Call to Order - 6:33pm**
2. **Welcome & Introductions - Everyone answered favorite rainy day activity**
3. **Approval of April 2, 2025 minutes - Motion: Dave / Second Faraz / All in Favor**
4. **International Partner Visit: Karim “Stylish” Kamara (Village Bike Project in Sierra Leon)**

Visit and presentation from Abdul Karim “Stylish” Kamara of Village Bike Project in Sierra Leone. Karim talked about the work he is doing in Sierra Leone with bike donations and building a cycling and race culture. Highlights from his presentation include:

- *They receive 6 containers every year; 1-2 from Working Bikes, 3 from Re-Cycle, which allows them to distribute bikes to kids in rural areas to help them with school transportation. Especially helpful for girls who often leave school early due to transportation becoming less safe.*
- *Karim trains people to be mechanics, providing more employment opportunities, and they train people on basic mechanics and when they go out to communities to ensure they can handle easier fixes. Currently 45 people are employed through the various bike partnerships*
- *20 bikes per school but more than 200 students interested, they pick out the students doing the worst in grades and travelling the further*
- *Tour du Lunsar - just took place in April, Karim started this cycling race a few years ago and it's growing. This past year people from around the world competed. Finances and fundraising are the hardest parts of organizing the race.*

5. General Meeting Feedback Activity

Claire led attendees through an activity to collect more feedback on how to revamp General Meetings to make them more engaging and better attended. *People can provide their feedback through [this Google Survey](#).*

6. Committees & [Strategic Plan](#) Goals Update 7:25

- a. Volunteer Committee – Goal #1: Grow and Support our Volunteer Community
 - i. *Colette shared that they are retroactively looking at volunteer orientation and ways to improve; WB is seeing a lot more folks doing community service hours (which has improved the organizational systems like tubes), more young folks on Saturday which has also turned into more educational sessions.*
- b. Building Committee – Goal #2: Improve Functionality of our Building
 - i. *Ed shared WB has been approved by city on the ramp permit and is now looking for a contractor (yay!); the committee is also meeting with HVAC vendors to explore options to improve the internal comfort of the building.*

- c. Communications Committee – Goal #3: Improve Communications & Storytelling
 - i. *Finn shared that social media has increased by 32% in a month (9,000 now!) and that they are working on website updates & collateral material*
 - d. Goal #4: Institutionalize our Commitment to Equity and Social/Racial Justice
 - i. *Faraz shared that Circles are continuing and coming into their own*
 - e. Executive Committee – Goal #5: Advance our Leadership; Local, National, Global
 - i. *Trevor shared that he is keeping in touch with all of our international partners and watching tariffs and potential implications*
 - f. Local Update:
 - i. *Evan A. shared about Working Bikes selection to participate in the Chicago Sukkah Design Festival which will result in the creation of a physical thing that Working Bikes will be the recipient of; first a life as part of design festival and then a second life as a piece of art at WB. This selection came through in part because of WB involvement at the North Lawndale Bike Box. Stay tuned for more information, the festival starts October 5th!*
 - g. **Anniversary Party - Save the Date, October 4th 4-8 PM**
 - i. *Contact Claire if you are interested in being part of the planning committee*
- 7. Upcoming Events & Community Updates 7:55**
- a. *Englewood Roll in Peace June 13th with partner Think Outside da Block, 4pm community resource fair and bike giveaway, roll out at 8pm*
 - b. *Check out Out Our Front Door for overnight camping rides and local day rides, plus monthly bike hang outs!*
 - c. *Faraz and others are working on a Bike the Boulevards featuring all the bike co-ops (Recyclery, Bikes N Roses, West Town Bikes, Working Bikes, and Blackstone) July 13th*
- 8. Adjourn - 8:04 pm**
- a. *Motion: Dave / Second Finn*

General Meeting Engagement Activity (Claire will facilitate)

Set Up: Large Post It's set up around the space with questions; people will have time to go around the room and answer the questions (goal is to get people temporarily out of their seats)

Google Survey for Virtual Folks: <https://forms.gle/SCVjizGrGBLGkJhn7>

Time: 10 minutes

Questions for Feedback:

1. What would you like to see more of during these meetings? (Large post it's, guests get 3 stickers for voting)

Get to know a Working Bikes Community Partner

Bike-related discussions (future of e-bikes, bike safety, etc.)

Get to know a Drop Off Site

International Partner presentations

Content experts related to Working Bikes mission (i.e. presentations on best practice of repairing something on a bike)

Community building time with fellow Working Bikes stakeholders

Working Bikes operation updates

Other (write in your idea)

2. What is a question you have about Working Bikes mission, services, operations, history or plans for the future?

3. We would like to see more Working Bikes stakeholders in attendance at our General Meetings. If you have suggestions on ways to increase attendance and engagement, please share!