

Re-evaluating Earn-a-Bike Meeting:

In attendance:

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Guest: Lori Lieberman

What was Earn-a-Bike?

A program designed to provide a means of transportation (bike, lock, and lights) for anyone who cannot afford it in exchange for building two bikes for Bike Saviours to be sold.

Applicants were required to fill out an application requesting their agreement to the Earn-a-Bike program policies and work to be done:

- Applicant agrees to build 2 bicycles for the shop to sell
- Once work is complete, candidate may select and build a bike for themselves
- Applicant will receive the bike, a lock, and set of lights
- Bike Saviours will provide all parts and tools
- Applicant agrees to follow shop policies. Failure to do so results in termination of the agreement with no compensation
- Applicant verifies that they need the bike for transportation and will not sell the bicycle within six months.

What about the program worked?

Bike Saviours provided a means of transportation to individuals who could not afford it.

What about the program did not work?

Earn-a-Bike candidates showed inconsistent follow-through, were challenging overall to work with, and/or were unable to perform bike building tasks to the shop's satisfaction. Bike availability was slim. Bikes generally selected for Earn-a-Bike were BSO adjacent and there is little/no room to store bikes of this caliber for infrequent requests.

Observations:

- Challenges assessing [real] need
- No liaison to provide referral or follow-up/follow-through

Recommended Improvements:

- Work with a community-based organization for referrals
 - Why?
 - Stabilize applicant base
 - Potential liaising and follow-up communication available via case management
- Instead of offering BSO/BSO-like bikes, offer regular, \$60 Build-a-Bike
 - Why?
 - BSOs don't responsibly solve the problem of having no reliable transportation.
- Work trade instead of bike building
 - Why?
 - Bikes to be sold through the shop generally require a higher mechanical aptitude than that which we should expect from untrained individuals.
 - Work trade duties are not all bike-related and therefore more accessible to individuals with little/no mechanical interest or ability.

Per discussion, general program outline:

What is Earn-a-Bike?

A way to get a means of transportation into the hands of someone who needs it but can't afford it.

What are the qualifications for earning a bike?

Referral from a charitable organization. Later, a case-by-case basis.

How do qualified individuals earn a bike?

Shop duties for a predetermined # of hours. Suggested 12 hours = 2 days. Mostly covers hours needed to cover costs for bike, lights, and lock (\$115). Justification: Reasonable wage, quick solution to a long-term problem.

Possible Work Trade Duties:

- Sweep
- Clean bathroom
- Breakdown bikes
- Check tubes
- Make rubber bands
- Sorting (some bike knowledge)
 - Used parts
 - Spokes
 - Bearings
- Volunteering (intermediate/advanced bike knowledge)
- Greeter desk
- Straightening bikes
- Special projects utilizing their skills

Once work is done, bike selection is made and bike is tagged.

What type of bike qualifies for Earn-a-Bike?

Bikes we are likely to have parts for. 26" MTB, e.g. A standard \$60 Build-a-Bike

To Do:

- Decide how long do they have to complete the 12 hours?
- Draft new application and present to board
- Post to Website
 - Not application; just description and email link
- Find resources to refer walk-ins to for referral/liasing purposes
- Decide how/if to schedule Earn-a-Bike work trade hours
- Pick a start date