



“Bare As You Dare” Q & A

Q: When is the “Bare As You Dare” bike ride event taking place?

A: Sunday, Aug. 17, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Q: Where will the event take place, and what is the route?

A: It will start in Kiwanis Park. Riders will ride east to the Madison Street pedestrian bridge, cross to the south shore of the Clark Fork River, ride up from the Riverfront Trail at the Waterwise Garden near the Missoulian building to South Fourth Street East, which they’ll follow to Higgins Avenue. They’ll turn north onto the bridge and ride the length of Higgins Avenue to the public art XXX sculpture “Crossings,” turn east on East Alder for a block, then turn south on Pattee Street and ride the length of it. The ride will turn through Bess Reed Park to Clay Street, then Kiwanis Street and back to Kiwanis Park.

Q: Who is the organizer?

A: Missoula resident Anita Maddux. She can be contacted at maddux.anita@gmail.com.

Q: Why did the City grant permits for this event?

A: The City issued a special use permit and a street use permit because in the event that it denies a permit, there must be legal reasons for doing so. There are no legal reasons for denying the permit. Having permits in place means that the City, including public safety personnel, know where and when the event is taking place, have limited the duration of the event and will have public safety personnel along the route prepared to respond to safety or criminal issues. The public will know this information and can avoid the area if they find it offensive and wish not to see it. The City does not support, encourage or endorse the event. The Missoula City Council did not vote on any item associated with this event; the City’s permitting process is administrative.

Q: Isn’t public nudity illegal?

A: No. Nudity alone is not illegal. This is unfortunately complex, as are many legal questions, and is linked in this case to freedom of speech. The City cannot deny a permit or arrest someone based on nudity alone. However, if a rider, at any point, engages in lewd or lascivious behavior that causes complaint, that complaint will be investigated and, if evidence supports it, the person engaged in that behavior will be charged with a crime.

Q: How could that law be changed?

A: It is a state law. A citizen could contact his or her state legislators.

Q: Who could stop the Bare As You Dare event? Why is Mayor Engen not stopping it?

A: Mayor Engen is not in a position of authority to stop it, as he has no legal authority to do so. The organizer could cancel the event; citizens who want the event not to take place should contact her.

City of Missoula Communications Office

Aug. 12, 2014