



FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER CLINTON-IONIA-SHIAWASSEE TRAIL
P.O. BOX 274
ST. JOHNS, MI 48879

Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail Monthly Meeting Wednesday, April 13, 2016 7:00 pm, Owosso Township Hall, Owosso, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** –Chairperson Knight called meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. *Present:* Kyle Knight, Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham, Terry McLeod, Kathy Simon, Ardelle Rodgers, Marshall Baker
 - b. *Absent:* Pam Weisenburger, Dave Weber, Guy Buckingham
 - c. *Guests:* Brenda Barber, Bob Bartlett, Erwin Trumble, Jr. and Doug Hyland
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of March 9, 2016 . Gustafson/Culham M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Chairperson Knight presented Bob Bartlett a volunteer recognition certificate. Mr. Trumble reported that a Jeep and a motorcycle have been going down trail near Muir. He has not been able to get license plate number. Knight advised him to call the Ionia County sheriff with times, so they can post someone out there. Also discussed trail web cams.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Add Parking as Item 11. i under New Business. Gustafson/Culham M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod stated that Hub Tire in St. Johns will dispose of old tires for \$2 each. The MSU intern accepted another job. FFM River Valley Trail has submitted four Application/Permits to Use State Land - one for 18 benches and 6 kiosks along 10.7 miles along their corridor; one for the purpose of placing one bench, two kiosks, one trash receptacle and 8 dog waste stations in Belding; one for the purpose of placing large boulders to keep motorized vehicles from crossing the trail; and one for the purpose of removing trees that are floating against the pylons at bridges #1 and #2. MWMTA approved a letter of support for the Village of Saranac's proposed new trailhead. They discussed Ionia drainage culvert. They approved a revised Payment Voucher for the Friends groups to use to submit payment requests. Next meeting is April 28, 2016.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported following income: \$1,500 for a bench donation, \$1,005 in dues and \$985.00 in donations - total of \$3,490.00. Disbursements included \$648.47 for brochures and \$18.17 for web site maintenance - total of \$666.64. The ending fund balance in March was \$14,316.38. **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report. Culham/Baker M/S/P
8. **Fund Raising** – None.
9. **Community Outreach/Fairs, Festivals, etc.** - None.
10. **Old Business**
 - a) *Trail Maintenance - Spring Cleanup - Update* - Knight is coordinating with Goodwins, Kiwanis, St. Johns Middle Schools, and a Boy Scout group for May 7. He will contact other schools in the area. DPW in St. Johns will handle their trash. CO wants to be notified when there are clean ups so they know the people have a right to be on the trail. McLeod stated that MWMTA board members are concerned that we are taking advantage

of the endowment fund because we need to hire services rather than using volunteers. She also stated that Dave Hodges is handling the bids for mowing 41.3 miles of the trail. She will follow up on the status of the bids. Knight noted that he just received a call from a volunteer willing to mow every two weeks between St. Johns and Fowler. Also discussed problem of maintenance needed in areas where we do not have any volunteers. We currently do not have any volunteers between Fowler and Ovid and there were at least two instances in March where trees needed to be cut and removed from the trail. Hopefully our volunteer base will grow in future years.

- b) *Annual Meeting Recap* - All agreed that the Annual Meeting went well. We had a good turn out and the facilities were great.
- c) *Update on City of St. Johns Sign Application* - Knight stated that April (with City of St. Johns) has e-mailed and left voice mail messages with Kristen Bennett at the DNR and has not received any response. Knight will contact her again.
- d) *Benches* - We have sold 14 benches. Discussed putting small signs along the trail where we still can place benches and adding a post to our Facebook page about availability of benches.

11. New Business

- a) *Trail Event Requests* - Brenda Barber presented a request from the St. John's Principal Shopping District to hold a Winter Festival of Lights on the trail on December 2, 2016. One of the events would include running a lawn tractor with 5 carts (from Uncle John's Cider Mill) to go down a couple blocks down two blocks and up the trail for children. Because of the "motorized vehicle on the trail" aspect of the event, we had previously run this by Bennett at the DNR who wanted to run it by DNR officials. At this point we have not received a response yet. **MOTION** to approve pending liability insurance and DNR approval. Simon/Gustafson M/S/P Need to add events to our website and Facebook page
- b) *MWMTA Grant* - MWMTA has been slow in paying bills. They have suggested granting us a certain amount and we would pay bill. **MOTION** to approve MWMTA to allow us to be fiduciary for mowing, spraying, and incidental maintenance costs. Culham/Baker M/S/P
- c) *Conservation Officer* - Robert Slick has been assigned our CO for Shiawassee County. Additional CO's will be assigned to Clinton and Ionia counties.
- d) *Phone Message/monitoring/intern* - The City of St. Johns has given us a phone line to be monitored by the MSU intern. That intern has since taken another job. We also need the CO to clarify what the message should say. **TABLED** till May.
- e) *Horse Signs* - Knight is in the process of getting horse signs up from Shepardsville to Tallman roads. They are all up between Ovid and Owosso. Weber has the remainder. McLeod stated that the River Valley Trail needs signs and it would be great if we could give them some of our excess (if there is any). Consensus that we could give them emergency ones, but we would like them back when they get their new ones.
- f) *Trail Operations and Maintenance Workshop* - Rodgers attended last week at Fred Meijer headquarters. Sample manual will be available in May. She gave background on the all encompassing and informative training on maintenance, erosion, volunteers, etc.
- g) *Trail Map/Brochures* - Consensus to place 300 brochures each in Clare, Port Huron, New Buffalo, Coldwater and Dundee rest areas. Culham will check to see how many more brochures we can have printed for the remaining \$350 budgeted to spend on brochures.
- h) *Extra T-Shirts from Bike Ride* -Jenny McCampbell has extra t-shirts. Agreed that we will give them to kids volunteering their services on cleaning the trail.
- i) *Parking* - The owners of Budget Tire, which purchased the old Owosso Township Hall, are avid trail proponents and have offered parking spaces for trail users. We support their offer.
- k) *Overpass in St. Johns* - Knight reported that vulgarity has been painted in this area. His office will handle painting over the graffiti.

12. Next Meeting Date/Location –Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at Clinton Court house.

13. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:56 pm. Simon/Baker M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon