



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, March 9, 2016 7:00 pm, Pewamo Village Hall, Pewamo, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** –Chairperson Knight called meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. *Present:* Kyle Knight, Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham, Terry McLeod, Guy Buckingham, Kathy Simon, Ardelle Rodgers
 - b. *Absent:* Pam Weisenburger, Marshall Baker
 - c. *Guests:* Ashley Jackson, Duane Sherman, Erwin Trumble, Jr., Doug Hyland
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of February 10, 2016 . Weber/Culham M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Mr. Trumble reported a tree over the trail between Maple River and the gravel pit road. He asked if it would be okay for him to ask someone to help him remove it since it is a good size ash tree. Knight replied that would be fine, but they need to fill out a volunteer form for liability. Buckingham explained how to pile the wood after it is cut. Mr. Sherman from the Village of Muir wants to erect wayfinding signs along the trail to direct trail users to local businesses. McLeod explained process, but also noted that the City of St. Johns is in the process of getting approvals for wayfinding signs. Since we would like signs to be consistent along the trail, we would appreciate if they could wait until that approval process is completed and they could pattern their signs from the St. Johns signs. Ms. Jackson is the director of the Clinton County Arts Council. She passed out information and explained their plans to install sculptures in downtown St. Johns to mark their 35th anniversary between June 1 and Labor Day. Artists will install their own sculptures, but she will supervise installation. Sculptures must be able to set properly without toppling. They are expecting between 10-20 entries, minimum 4-5 feet apart. Sculptures will be installed from Clinton Avenue to the rail cars. Board asked that the sculptures be installed at least 10 feet away from trail edge. **MOTION** to tentatively approve the CCAC event based on that we are included on the list of "hold harmless" entities, and receipt of a completed application form. Simon/Gustafson M/S/P
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Buckingham/Gustafson M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod stated that they are working on a dedicated phone number for reporting infractions along the trail. They are also working with Chuck Nelson on hiring an MSU tourism intern that is interested in working on our trail for a term. They have a new member, Ron Gunderson, from Ionia County. Culham also finalized the volunteer form to include a check box for completion of chainsaw certification class. Next meeting is Thursday, March 9 at 4 pm at Clinton County Courthouse (original meeting was snowed out).
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported income of \$735 (\$295 dues, \$440 donations) and disbursements for \$533.57 (newsletter, ballots, postage, PO Box rental, MTGA membership and website maintenance). There is an ending fund balance of \$11,493.02. **MOTION** to approve website payment Culham/Simon M/S/P **MOTION** to approve the Financial Report Rodgers/Buckingham M/S/P

8. **Fund Raising** – None.

9. **Community Outreach/Fairs, Festivals, etc.**

- a) *Quiet Water Symposium* – Weisenburger reported via e-mail that the symposium went well. McLeod stated that Ron Gunderson told her that Weisenburger was a great asset.

10. **Old Business**

- a) *Trail Maintenance - Spring Cleanup - Update* - Knight has scheduled a meeting with a representative from St. Johns high school to set up a trail clean up for Earth Day weekend (April 23). Once he has finalized St. Johns, he will attempt to set up a challenge with other high schools along the trail. Buckingham said he is willing to give a trail maintenance clean up clinic. Discussed that perhaps the potential intern could be involved in the clinic.
- b) *Policy on memorials and art work* - McLeod stated that she did call and talk to three trail managers, but none have a written policy. They are mostly handled on a case by case basis. Consensus that we handle requests in a similar manner.
- c) *Brochures - Update* - Culham reported that brochures are at the printer and that they will be ready for our annual meeting. Our last brochure was printed on 100 lb paper, but Culham felt that 80 lb paper is sufficient. Cost is \$462 for 5,000. He suggested that our next brochure be printed on 11 x 14, instead of 8 1/2 x 11, paper. Buckingham stated he put a link on our website to the brochure.
- d) *Annual Meeting* - Simon stated she will prepare and bring copies of our agenda, last year's minutes, sign up sheets and volunteer sign up sheets. Gustafson will bring copies of budget/financial report. Nominating committee (Rodgers, Baker and Gustafson) will be at the ballot table. Discussion that March 17 is the start of the March Madness NCAA basketball games and St. Patrick's day, which may negatively affect attendance.

11. **New Business** -

- a) *Trail Event Requests* - Heart of the Trail 5K Run/Walk (Dan Redman) approved pending insurance.
- b) *DNR vs. county rules regarding hunting on trail* - Discussed question of who has the final say regarding hunting along the trail? Knight stated that if there is hunting within 450 feet of a residence they should call 911, because it is illegal. Bennett has been asked to address this issue at the annual meeting.
- c) *Location of remaining benches* - Gustafson reported following five bench sites approved by the DNR are still available: between Pewamo and Muir (even with Struble Road) - 1; between Muir and Ionia - 2; between St. Johns and Ovid - 2. We currently have one family wishing to purchase a bench between Fowler and Pewamo (Thelen). Simon will call and inform them of the available sites.
- d) *Approval of Volunteer Form* - **MOTION** to approve MWMTA volunteer form Gustafson/Buckingham M/S/P

12. **Next Meeting Date/Location** – Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 17th at 7 pm in the auditorium of the Memorial Healthcare Hospital in Owosso. Board members please be there no later than 6:15 pm. Next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Owosso Township Hall

13. **Adjournment** – **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Culham/Buckingham M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon