

**MINUTES Trail Coalition Board of Directors  
Town of Somerset Town Hall - May 10, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - David Mandel, Chairperson called the meeting to order at ~ 6:35 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE** – The agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Coalition web site.

**ROLL CALL** – Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuiser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Andrew Lamers, David Mandel, Mark Vanasse, Marian Webber and Tim Witzmann. Also present were Ben Heuiser, Ruth Steiner, Susan Stepka, Jim Webber and Jim Heebink until ~ 7:00 p.m. when his discussion with the Board of Directors was complete (See Item #1 below).

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action

1. Discussion with Jim Heebink from New Richmond's Pathways group about how best a trail organization can assist municipalities in creating a strong, connected trail network.

Heebink discussed the history of the 19 year old Pathways organization and how it works with the City of New Richmond and its surrounding communities, differentiating between the beginning years and how the organization has evolved over the years. He also discussed sources of funding for the Pathways organization. Being active in the communities and talking to residents about trail issues and proposals, i.e. be out talking to residents along a proposed trail about the details of a proposal, has been a strong element of Pathways' successes, in Heebink's opinion. His main point of emphasis was to urge the Coalition to find its own path as far as an organization.

Lamers discussed the cooperative approach from the point of view of City projects and planning initiatives in recent years. Lamers as well as Heebink both thought timing was a critical element to success and that completion of the Loop Trail provides an excellent opportunity to move forward with trails initiatives. Both Heebink and Lamers answered question from Board members during an informative give and take discussion.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Witzmann, Gherty) to adopt the agenda. **Carried** with no opposition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. In response to a question from Witzmann, Lamers discussed five bike racks created by the welding class at WITC that will be placed in New Richmond Parks over the summer concluding that it was an excellent cooperative opportunity for both the City and WITC.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – March 6, 2017 – Susan Heuiser noted that the date of the minutes to be approved was in error on the agenda and that the April 12, 2017, minutes were the ones to be approved. A **motion** (Johnson, Vanasse) to approve the April 12, 2017, Board of Directors minutes. . **Carried** with no opposition.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors  
Communications Committee – Witzmann indicated most of his report from this committee was contained in the *ITEMS for discussion and/or action* portion of the agenda so he would address the issues at that time.  
Financial Report – Vanasse reviewed the current month's report indicating little action for the month of April.  
Healthier Together – Johnson led the discussion about Bike to School Day held at Somerset Middle School. The event was sponsored by *Healthier Together Pierce and St. Croix County* in middle schools across both counties. Each participant received a reflector provided by the following organizations - River Falls Area Hospital, Hudson Hospital & Clinic, Westfields Hospital & Clinic in New Richmond, Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin and the Pierce & St. Croix County Public Health Departments. In addition a bicycle donated by River Valley Trails and Art Doyle's Spokes & Pedals was drawn and the lucky winner was from Somerset Middle School. Reports about other schools will follow as they are available.

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Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Johnson detailed discussions about how best to assist the Town of Somerset in dealing with the Landing Hill issue on the County’s Bike & Ped Plan *Recommendations Map*. A variety of tools were discussed as possibilities.

Bench Project – Vanasse reported that a committee including participants from the Phipps Center for the Arts, Houlton Elementary Parents Group, the St. Croix Valley Foundation, the Town of St. Joseph and the Trails Coalition are working to place an Art Bench on the Trailhead of the Loop Trail. This bench is anticipated to be the “Keystone” Art Bench to tie all the other benches on both sides of the St. Croix River together. Further details as the plans develop.

St. Croix County’s Bike & Ped Plan Update – Susan Heuser noted that the updated Bike & Pedestrian Plan, in the planning stage for over 18 months, was passed by the County Board at its May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The *Recommendations Map* from that plan was reviewed noting changes in the map since its last publication.

Others that may be available – Susan Heuser noted that the liability insurance payment notice had arrived. A **motion** (Gherty, Witzmann) to pay the \$250 invoice to West Bend Mutual Insurance Company. . **Carried** with no opposition.

**ITEMS** for discussion and/or action (continued)

2. Election of Coalition officers for the coming year – after discussion about the officers to be elected, the following nominations were made and elections completed:

A **motion** (Witzmann, Gherty) to nominate André Johnson to be Chairperson of the Coalition. No other nominations were made. A **motion** (Gherty, Marian Webber) to close the nominations. **Carried** with no opposition. Vote on nomination motion **carried** with no opposition.

A **motion** (Witzmann, Gherty) to nominated Andrew Lamers for Vice-Chairperson of the Coalition. No other nominations were made. **Carried** with no opposition.

A **motion** (Witzmann, Gherty) to nominate Susan Heuser for Secretary/Information Director& Grant Coordinator and Mark Vanasse for Treasurer. **Carried** with no opposition.

At this point in the proceedings Johnson and Mandel decided that Mandel would finish conducting the remainder of the meeting.

Reorganization of assigned tasks as may be required – This topic was not addressed because of time constraints.

3. Addition to the Communications Committee – After discussion of the Communications Committee charter and Coalition By-Law requirements, Vanasse and Ben Heuser handed their resignations from the Communications Committee to Johnson. A **motion** (Gherty, Lamers) to appoint Ruth Steiner and Susan Stepka as new members of the Communications Committee. **Carried** with no opposition.
4. Momentum West Grant Application through St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation – Susan Heuser discussed the document regarding making an application to St. Croix County’s EDC department for the Momentum West moneys that will be provided to St. Croix County to support entrepreneurial endeavors. Two options were proposed. Discussion included comments about Coalition capabilities to do a trail map more efficiently and at less cost than through the grant process. Following discussion a **motion** (Gherty, Lamers) that we do Objective 2 [*Convene a forum for St. Croix County municipalities and local businesses to learn what economic potential the St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail and its extensions into the entire county could bring in the future and how to prepare for attracting those tourists to their communities and businesses*]. **Carried** with no opposition. Susan Heuser will submit the application before the May 12<sup>th</sup> deadline. If any grant funds are awarded, the Communications Committee will meet to plan the details for this event.
5. 2017 Summer Outreach Details – Dates are scheduled for Somerset’s Pea Soup Day, Hudson’s RiverFest and Baldwin’s Chili Cook-Off. Lamers is looking at dates for a City of New Richmond opportunity.

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6. Coalition Participation in the County Quarterly Newsletter and Summit – General consensus on the Board was that the Coalition continue participating in cooperative opportunities with County initiatives moving forward.
7. Fund Raising Goals – Vanasse reported planned details for a fund raiser at Oliphant Brewing on October 4<sup>th</sup>. He will also work with Kaiser regarding a possible event at Barley John’s in New Richmond and the possibility of sharing a fund raiser with the New Richmond Pathways organization at that location. Consensus on the Board was to proceed with both events. An ad hoc group consisting of Vanasse, Kaiser, Lamers and Susan Heuser was appointed to complete necessary details of these events over the summer.
8. ATV/UTV Shared Trail Use with Bicycles Issues – Johnson discussed details of the recent affirmative ATV vote in the Town of Star Prairie to allow ATV use on certain town roads in addition to the already in place ATV ordinance in Somerset with specific attention in both cases to the effect on roadways designated in the County’s updated Bike and Ped Plan as bikeways.
9. Set next meeting date – September 6, 2017 or other – The next meeting was set for **September 6<sup>th</sup>** unless an issue presents itself that requires a meeting before then.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Reorganization of Coalition Tasks, Alternate Positions to the Board of Directors, Fund Raiser(s), Outreach Activities

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA**

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Witzmann, Marion Webber) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuser, Secretary