



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, February 10, 2016

7:00 pm, Clinton County Courthouse, St. Johns, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** –Chairperson Knight called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. **Present:** Kyle Knight, Pam Weisenburger, Janice Gustafson, Marshall Baker, Barry Culham, Terry McLeod
 - b. **Absent:** : Guy Buckingham, Kathy Simon, Ardelle Rodgers (Rodgers was present to assist with newsletter assembly, but prior to meeting for another commitment)
 - c. **Guests:** April Wilson
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of January 13, 2016 . Gustafson/Weber M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - April Wilson presented the City of St. John’s Application/Permit to Use State Land for the purpose of placing four wayfinding signs along the trail. She reviewed the application with the Board. They received a DALMAC Grant. Signs are black powder coated, 18 inches wide and 24 inches long with rounded corners and will be mounted on a steel post. They were designed by Michigan Graphics & Signs and will be made by Katren Industries in St. Johns. Signs are \$75.00 each and the posts are \$185.00 which includes a decorative attachment with a ball top. They are to be placed on the end of town by Scott Road and Morton Street, and the two in town will be just before Clinton Avenue and to the west of Clinton Avenue. The Friends of the FMCIS Trail Board requested that the sign eliminate from the logo part of the sign the words on the logo “Friends of the” but leave Fred Meijer. The signs are very attractive. The signs will be ADA compliant. **MOTION** to approve the Application/Permit to Use State Land for the City of St. Johns for the purpose of installing four wayfinding signs. Gustafson/Weisenburger M/S/P A letter of recommendation will be written and submitted to the MWMTA for their review.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Weber/Baker M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod reported that the MWMTA had spent \$53,068.92 on the trail last year. The Treasurer is looking into a Quick Books System so he will be able to report what was spent on each trail and also a breakdown of the expenditures such as mowing and other maintenance activities. The approved payment of the \$920.00 bill for the 80 “No Horses” signs as presented by the FM Heartland trail, but the expenditure will be assigned to the FFM CIS as it is for their trail and FM Heartland facilitated the purchase of the signs on their behalf as the FM Heartland already had an account and working relationship with No Bull Graphix. FFM River Valley Rail Trail submitted a bill to pay for their liability and board insurance. MWMTA did not pay for FM Heartland or FFM CIS insurance. McLeod did not like paying the insurance as they had not paid the other two clubs insurance. It was pointed out that insurance is required by the lease. The FFM RVRT had received a lot less money than the other two clubs. It is difficult to treat all three clubs the same as they are all in different places with their growth and development as a club. It was decided to look into adding the Friends clubs to the MWMTA Insurance this year. Last year it was not recommended to do so by the insurance agent as it would broaden the liability exposure and cost the MWMTA a lot more money. Hanover will check into this again as if you add up all three clubs separate policies it may not be the case. The MWMTA decided to pay for the FMRVRT insurance this year and look at other

insurance options for next year. The MWMTA adopted the MWMTA Maintenance Standards document. Heather Hanover was elected Chairman; David Hodges was elected Vice Chairman; Jim Banks was elected Treasurer; Terry McLeod was elected secretary. The MWMTA is looking into an intern from MSU to function as trail manager. They are looking into the legalities of that option. Next meeting date is February 25th @ 4:00 pm.

7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported no income and she paid Fastnal \$335.82 for the locking nuts for the signs. There is a balance of \$11,291.59. Gustafson presented bills of \$151.16 for the printing of the newsletter, ballots, and membership form, \$73.50 for the postage, \$60.00 for the PO box rent, and it was decided to give Michigan Trails and Greenways \$100,00 for their Annual Appeal. Totaling \$384.66. **MOTION** to pay the bills in the amount of \$384.66 Baker/Weber M/S/P
8. **Fund Raising** – None.
9. **Community Outreach/Fairs, Festivals, etc.** - **A) Quiet Water Symposium** – Pam Weisenburger volunteered to assist the FFMRVRT with the booth. **B) Ionia Expo** – It was decided it was too expensive at \$120.00. It was felt that we did not get enough benefit for the cost of the booth. (a \$10.00 donation last year).
10. **Old Business**
 - a) *Trail Maintenance - Spring Cleanup - Update* - The date of April 23rd was selected. Knight said he would see about coordinating that with the community clean up. McLeod said that a volunteer had counted 30 tires from Smith Road to Ovid. There was a discussion about how to collect and dispose of them. It was decided that should not be part of the April 23rd clean up. Members are going to check sources to see how to handle collecting and disposing of the tires.
 - b) *Signage* - See Public Comments. It was also discussed that if the City of St. Johns met the MDNR approval that we might go with that sign design and start planning the rest of the trail.
 - c) *Policy on memorials and art work* - No report.
 - d) *State Park Rules* - McLeod had talked to Kristen Bennett, Trail Specialist, and she said this is going to take a while as it takes an internal transfer of authority between two departments in the MDNR.
 - e) *Brochures* - Culham presented a draft of the new brochure and the board reviewed the brochure and made recommendations. Culham is working to get the new brochures ready for the annual meeting. We hope to also get MDOT to place them in the Welcome Centers. Culham will work on the brochure and send out a new draft for all to review and send an email approval. Culham will check the price cut off to see what is the most reasonable. The Board was not too concerned about the price as they have done business with American Speedy Print for years and he has been very fair on his prices. **MOTION** to approve Culham to get 5,000 brochures printed.
 - f) *Annual Meeting* - March 17th at 7:00 pm at Memorial Healthcare Auditorium. Speaker will be a DNR Trail Specialist and Nancy Krupiarz. It was decided not to meet for dinner before the meeting. McLeod will see about getting the Ionia Award to show off at the meeting. We need to have volunteer forms for people to sign up. Simon does the agenda.
 - g) *Newsletter* - Done. Thank you Kathy and Barry. Great job!
 - h) *Review of the draft Trail Maintenance Standards Document* - Done.
11. **New Business** - None.
12. **Next Meeting Date/Location** – March 9th in Pewamo.
13. **Adjournment** – **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:02 P.M. Gustafson/Culham M/S/P

Minutes taken by Terry McLeod