



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

Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail Monthly Meeting **Wednesday, January 11, 2017** **7:00 pm, Memorial Healthcare, Owosso, Michigan**

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** –Chairperson Knight called meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. **Present:** Terry McLeod, Janice Gustafson, Barry Culham, Ardelle Rodgers, Kyle Knight, Rick Church, Dave Weber, Marshall Baker, Guy Buckingham, Kathy Simon
 - b. **Absent:** Guy Buckingham, Pam Weisenburger
 - c. **Guests:** Robert Flynn, Rick Morris, Doug Hyland, Bob Bartlett, Erwin Trumble, Jr.
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2016, as amended. Church/Weber M/S/P (December meeting cancelled because of inclement weather)
4. **Public Comment** - None.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the agenda. Gustafson/Weber M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod reported that their current checking account balance is \$89,186.43 and there is an available balance of \$320,559.18 in the Grand Rapids Foundation. The 2017 budget of \$123,700 was approved. Quarterly reports from the friends groups on expenditures made with grant money is due in January. Nikki Van Bloem (MDNR) reported that MDOT did not find the signage proposed by the MDNR to meet federal standards required for all public and private trails open to the public. The St. Johns signs do not meet standards but they will not require they be removed. However, all future signs must meet the federal standards.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson reported that \$10,000 in MWMTA grant funds were received in November and dues and donations of \$25.00 were received in December. \$10,052.40 was expended in November (\$9,999.50 for mowing and brush back expenses) and no expenditures in December. There was \$1,671.61 remaining in the grant balance and a current operating funds balance of \$13,301.19. Gustafson also distributed copies of the 2017 Budget. **MOTION** to approve the financial report. Rodgers/Church M/S/P **MOTION** to approve 2017 budget Baker/Rodgers M/S/P
8. **Trail Maintenance** -
 - a) **2017 Mowing Contract** - Culham presented a mowing quote for 2017 from Keith Litchfield. The quote runs from May through October and includes two mowings per month, as needed and pre-season trail cleanup to remove brush and cutting down any trees that would hinder mowing, for a total maximum cost of \$10,000. Discussion that we may also want to get a quote for weed whacking around benches and posts. **MOTION** to accept quote from Keith Litchfield 2017 mowing for a total maximum cost of \$10,000. Simon/Baker M/S/P Culham will contact Mr. Litchfield to obtain a copy of his liability insurance.

9. *Old Business*

- a) *Trail Event Fees* - The DNR has strongly suggested that we set up a fee schedule for entities requesting approval to hold events on the trail. The consensus of the board is that we do not wish to discourage small event organizers or reduce proceeds from charities at this time. However, it was decided that we should charge a refundable damage deposit for any new requests. **MOTION** to charge refundable damage deposit of \$50 for event requests. Church/Baker M/S/P
- b) *Hazardous Crossings* - McLeod is working on this project. Progress has been inhibited because of the strict MDOT signage requirements, but she is researching ladder striping painted in white as warning in the interim.
- c) *Website* -
 - i) *Update Event and Volunteer forms* - Culham will remove the expiration date from the Volunteer form. He also mentioned that everyone needs to fill out the volunteer log every time they perform any maintenance on the trail. He distributed copies of the log to the board and will make it available on the website. Culham also distributed a draft of revised event form and rules. Board members should review and make suggestions/input before he sends to MWMTA for use by all the trails.
- d) *2017 Annual Meeting* - This year's meeting will be held at AgroLiquid headquarters in St. Johns on March 8. Speakers will be Barry Culham and Nikki VanBloem. Award/certificates will be presented to volunteers and to Nancy Krupriarz. \$500 is budgeted for annual meeting. Knight will provide cookies, AgroLiquid will provide lemonade, coffee and water. Possibly \$50 for room charge. Knight asked board members to be there by 6:30 pm. Simon will send article to the papers regarding the annual meeting.
 - i) *Ad Hoc Nominating Committee* - Committee will consist of Dave Weber, Rick Church and Kyle Knight. Simon will send an article to the papers regarding the elections (responses due by February 3).
 - ii) *FMCIS Stickers* - **MOTION** to purchase 500 stickers for \$125. Baker/Church M/S/P (This expense is covered under amount budgeted for annual meeting)
- e) *Fund Raising* - Culham suggested selling nameplates for bridges along the trail.
- f) *Possibility of Paid Trail Manager* - Discussion on paid trail manager (how much? how to fund? employee vs. contractual? should we approach counties and/or MWMTA? add to our budget? paid or unpaid student assistant? etc.). As a stopgap we may be able to pay expenses from our own operating funds.
- g) *Wayfaring Signs* - See item 6 above.
- h) *Possible Donation to New Fowler Trailhead & Muir/Lyons Pedestrian Bridge* - **MOTION** to purchase bricks for fund raisers in Muir/Lyons (pedestrian bridge) and in Fowler (trailhead) at a cost of \$100 each. Weber/Church M/S/P

10. *New Business* -

- a) *Possibility of Paving the Trail* - The surface of the limestone sections of the trail is soft and difficult to use. Knight stated that Craig Smith (MWMTA board member) has visited four other trails constructed subsequent to ours and all limestone surfaces had hardened, unlike ours. Some members checked out a section of trail near Smyrna that has been paved with recycled asphalt (RAP) and were very impressed. Cost was estimated at approximately \$8,200/mile. Culham also mentioned that Mr. Litchfield has some equipment which works similar to a large rototiller and would work up and blend the trail surface, then compact the surface for a total cost \$3,500. However, consensus was that our trail has too much sand content, plus it might also stir up black cinder/sand that is close to the surface. Discussion that the State of Michigan faces liability issues if someone is injured on the trail due to its inferior surface. **MOTION** to investigate having a core sample done. Church/Weber M/S/P. Knight will contact Nikki to inform her of our serious concerns about composite of trail and that we are beginning the process of investigating inadequacy of our trail surface. ("Trail Surface" will be added as an agenda item.)
- b) *2017 Meeting Schedule* - The February meeting will be shifted from February 8 to February 15 in St. Johns at 6 pm (for compiling newsletters). Chuck Nelson had asked to present survey results at the February meeting. McLeod will contact him and ask to

move the presentation to the April 12th meeting. If he agrees, we will start the April meeting at 6 pm. **MOTION** to hold all monthly meetings in St. Johns. Gustafson/Weber M/S/P Knight will arrange room reservations at the court house in St. Johns.

- c) *2017 Winter Newsletter/Publication Schedule* - Simon presented the schedule for publication of our 2017 Newsletter. Articles will be due by January 27. Culham has agreed to format the newsletter. Newsletter will be compiled at the February 15 meeting. **MOTION** to pay up to \$500 for publication of annual newsletter and ballots. Baker/Weber M/S/P

d) *AgroLiquid Sidewalk Connection* - Discussion on this request.

- f) *Event Requests from Frank Management* - They have submitted three event requests for 5K, 10K and half marathon events commencing in St. Johns, Ionia and Saranac. Since we have no authority over the River Valley Trail, they will have to obtain approvals from the Friends of the RV Trail for the Saranac runs and for the portions of the Ionia runs that will pass through that trail. They may also need to obtain permits from the City of Ionia. **MOTION** to approve Frank Management for their St. Johns and Ionia events pending receipt of liability insurance. Church/Baker M/S/P

11. Next Meeting Date/Location –Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6 pm at the Clinton County Court House in St. Johns.

12. Adjournment – **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Simon/Gustafson M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon