

MINUTES Trail Coalition Board of Directors
City of New Richmond Civic Center - October 12, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - Tim Witzmann, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order in Chairperson Dave Mandel's absence.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE – The agenda was posted on the Coalition web site.

ROLL CALL – Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, Andrew Lamers, Mark Vanasse and Tim Witzmann. Board members absent were André Johnson, David Mandel and Marian Webber. Ben Heuser was also present at the meeting.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. Witzmann noted contact with Mike Polehna regarding interstate cooperative actions around celebrations that may occur when the Loop Trail is opened and trails in general. Witzmann will make arrangements for Polehna to attend a future Board meeting to discuss possibilities.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – September 14, 2016 – A **motion** (Vanasse, Lamers) to approve the September 14, 2016, minutes as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors Fall Fund Raiser at Oliphant – Vanasse reported the final financial details for the September 14th fund raiser indicating it was a good gathering to continue each year. Suggested improvements discussed were to hold the event several weeks later in September or early October, possibly holding a raffle at the same time and changes to the nonbeverage refreshments. More details as the event is planned in 2017.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed the financial report showing detailed revenue and expenditure information. He indicated that planning for the future should include \$600 - \$700 annual expenditures to meet Coalition responsibilities and a suggestion to keep ~ \$2000 in the account to use as the Coalition works toward funding trail related initiatives in the future. More details will be discussed in the budgeting process for 2017.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Witzmann reviewed details of the initial meeting for this committee indicating it had been an informative meeting where each community with an appointed representative discussed information about trail status in his community. Susan Heuser reported that the Village of Somerset has a representative about to be appointed and that the City of New Richmond is still working on that process. The next meeting of this committee is November 7th.

Communications Committee – Discussion regarding this committee occurred during Items # 3 & 4 of the agenda.

Others that may be available – Susan Heuser reported on the Healthier Together initiative that embraces two counties, St. Croix & Pierce, and is in the final stages of planning for multiple years into the future. Four hospitals and multiple governmental & advocacy organizations have been involved in the planning process. One phase of the Healthier Together planning involves increasing physical activity in the county and trails have been a large part of the discussion in that area.

Heuser also reported on a successful *Walk to School Day* in St. Croix County on October 5th (with an inclement weather delay date as needed) with students in Baldwin - Woodville, Hudson, New Richmond and Somerset participating in activities in their respective school districts.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

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1. Town of St. Joseph TAP Grant – Vanasse reported the Town of St. Joseph grant application was not funded in the current TAP grant cycle. Vanasse also indicated ongoing discussions with WisDOT regarding the change of ownership of roads as the new St. Croix River Crossing Bridge is opened. Trail placement will be a part of those discussions set for later this fall. Moving forward the Town is working toward a cooperative agreement with WisDOT, St. Croix County and others to fund what would be the first trail extension from the Loop Trail into St. Croix County.
Gherty commented that future trail discussions should strongly consider non-paved trails because of the greater ease and less cost involved in maintaining those types of facilities. He noted a recent ride in neighboring MN on a trail that is virtually unrideable because of lack of maintenance issues.
2. Action on Empty Board Member Seat – Several Board members are/have been in contact with people about appointment to this seat. General consensus among Board members present was to keep looking for a ninth member of the Board.
3. Future Communications Committee Actions & Meeting Schedule Recommendations – Witzmann discussed details of the Communications Committee recommendations about how to proceed with the Coalition’s communications efforts. In general, many of the previous year’s outreach activities were considered very worthwhile. In addition, the committee recommended a less frequent meeting schedule because systems are in place allowing outreach to occur. Board members present agreed with the suggestions and they will be implemented moving forward.
4. Speakers with Trail Topics Expertise – Timing and Increased Attendance – This item was discussed as a part of the Communication Committee’s report. There was general agreement that a speaker’s program is a strong benefit to the trails initiative but that cooperative efforts to increase attendance at these events need to be in place before that program is undertaken again.
5. Fall Raffle Possibility – Vanasse discussed known details about a meat raffle at the Somerset American Legion this fall. He will get further details to the Board as he knows them. Discussion then turned to what projects the Coalition would be donating to and what type of fund raising events would be the most productive for the Coalition, noting that there are numerous fund raising events in the area throughout the year making it difficult to get strong commitment from potential attendees. The consensus was to place this item on the next meeting’s agenda and discuss options in depth.
6. Set next meeting date - The **next meeting** was set for **December 14, 2016**.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Identification of Projects to Donate Toward, Best Method for Funding Sources, Cooperative Interstate Activities, Budget for 2017

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – None identified at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Lamers, Vanasse) to adjourn. **Carried** at ~ 7:40 p.m. with no opposition.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuiser, Secretary