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 St. Croix Bike & Pedestrian Trails Coalition

St. Croix Bike & Pedestrian Trail Coalition

2017 Annual Report for 2016

Dated April 12, 2017

St. Croix Bike and Pedestrian Trail Coalition 2017 Annual Report for 2016

General Overview

As the Coalition finished the necessary facets of organizing a nonprofit business, 2016 saw several initiatives continued and others begun. The Communications Committee continued with outreach about trails within the county, a second fund raiser was held, the Coalition met with officials and employees of Washington County, Minnesota, to work co-operatively about trail issues and particularly the Loop Trail, and the Coalition contributed to information for use by St. Croix County staff as it prepares to seek additional funding and sponsors for the Trailheads connected to the St. Croix Crossing Loop Trail.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee completed defining organizational details and acquiring materials necessary for outreach at public/community events, mostly during the warm months of the year, but also at a least one winter event. The *Meeting in a Box* aspect of St. Croix County's update to its Bike & Pedestrian plan utilizing community organizations/residents to take contractor prepared presentations to various community meetings detailing the update process and seeking citizen input continued. The Trail Coalition led more than 20 such meetings in 2016.

The speaker's program at Coalition meetings was discontinued until St. Croix County's updated Bike & Pedestrian plan is complete to see how this particular outreach tool might co-ordinate with other efforts by various organizations.

Further outreach tools used by the Coalition include a *Facebook* page with slightly more than 225 followers, an email account with approximately 300 persons receiving messages from the Coalition and a website that averages over 700 views each month with a high of 982 in September and a low of 586 in February.

See Appendix B of this Committee's White Paper report.

Special Projects

The Coalition participated in several trail related special projects in connection with St. Croix County's Bike & Ped plan update as follows.

Four members of the Coalition continued to serve on the *Advisory Team* that was created to assist county staff, elected officials and their contractor with the Bike & Ped plan update. One representative was appointed by the Coalition and the other three Coalition members represent other organizations.

The ongoing effort of the Phipps Center for the Arts *Art Bench Project* continued. With the opening of the St. Croix River Crossing Bridge delayed into 2017, the time line for this bench project, which places artistic benches along the St. Croix River in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, will likely be delayed into the 2017-2018 school year for the planning phase with an implementation phase delayed possibly into 2019 dependent on Loop Trail (the anticipated location of the Art Bench) construction time lines as the bridge is completed.

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Financial Report

In 2016, the Coalition had receipts of \$2787.80 from contributions and a small fund raiser. Yearly expenditures amounted to \$1287.05 largely for bike helmets donated at various outreach events and fundraiser expenses. See Appendix A for details.

Looking to the Future

Making strong connections that create an interconnected, county wide network of trails reaching into neighboring counties in both Minnesota and Wisconsin will continue to be the focus of the Coalition's activities in 2017. The county's updated Bike & Ped Plan should be approved in the spring/early summer of 2017 and the implementation of the plan will bring new ways for the Coalition to participate in trail connectedness in the county and beyond.

Board of Directors

Terms Expiring in 2017

Mark Gherty

Andrew Lamers

David Mandel, Chairperson

Terms Expiring in 2018

Susan Heuiser, Secretary/Information Director

André Johnson

Mark Vanasse, Treasurer

Terms Expiring in 2019

Marian Webber

Tim Witzmann, Vice Chairperson

Open Seat

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Appendix A - Financial Report

Financial Statement - Jan-2016 - Dec-2016

	2015	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Total '16	Budgeted
REVENUE															
Member Dues															
Gifts	2,170.00					236.80	100.00					800.00	450.00	1,586.80	1,500.00
Subtotal:	2,170.00					236.80	100.00					800.00	450.00	1,586.80	1,500.00
Grants															3,000.00
Fund Raiser	1,400.00									1,076.00	125.00			1,201.00	4,000.00
Sales/Admission															200.00
T-Shirts	602.50														
Interest Rec'vd	0.14														
Subtotal:	2,002.64									1,076.00	125.00			1,201.00	7,200.00
Total Revenue:	4,172.64					236.80	100.00			1,076.00	125.00	800.00	450.00	2,787.80	8,700.00
DISBURSEMENTS															
Office Supplies	62.27					183.99								183.99	500.00
Insurance							250.00							250.00	500.00
Grant Appl.															
Professional Fees	1,400.00														250.00
Gov't Filings Fees				15.00	25.00			54.00	25.00					119.00	250.00
Exhibitor's Fees		55.00												55.00	
Bike Helmets						261.80								261.80	200.00
Subtotal:	1,462.27	55.00		15.00	25.00	445.79	250.00	54.00	25.00					869.79	1,700.00
Grant Disbursements															3,000.00
Fund Raiser	795.00								7.64	400.62				408.26	4,000.00
Subtotal:	795.00								7.64	400.62				408.26	7,000.00
T-Shirts	602.50														
Bank Charges	46.40						1.50		1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	9.00	
Subtotal:	648.90						1.50		1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	9.00	
Total Dispersed:	2,906.17	55.00		15.00	25.00	445.79	251.50	54.00	34.14	402.12	1.50	1.50	1.50	1,287.05	8,700.00
CASH BALANCE	1,266.17	1,211.17	1,211.17	1,196.17	1,171.17	962.18	810.68	756.68	722.54	1,396.42	1,519.92	2,318.42	2,766.92		

December gifts rec'vd by 12/31/16

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Appendix B – Communication Committee White Paper Report

With the Communication Committee charter guiding the Committee's activities, 2016 was a busy year for the Committee. What follows is a list of implementations details related to the Communications Committee's charter goals.

GOALS

1. *Provide a list of methods the Committee intends to use to disburse information.* General outreach across St. Croix County included participation in community events including the Hudson Hot Air Affair, Somerset Pea Soup Days, Somerset Library's Summer Bicycle Event, the Hudson RiverFest celebration, New Richmond's National Night Out, and Baldwin's Chili Cook-Off.

Committee members continued presenting the *Meeting in a Box* portion of the county's bike & pedestrian plan update which was begun in the fall of 2015. Presentation venues included City, Village & Town Councils, Boards & Committees; service organizations; community events; libraries; and organizations interested in/dedicated to activities that could be related to trail use, e.g. moms/parent groups. In all, more than 20 presentations/events were made/attended.

2. *Create the necessary documents and procure necessary supplies to be used during presentations.* The "basket" of tools and handouts collected during 2015 continued to be refined as new opportunities and events dictated. The "basket" is always ready to use by any of the Committee members doing outreach.
3. *Provide a list of venues at which information could be presented containing dates and times. This list shall be renewed annually.* The *Meeting in a Box* portion of St. Croix County's bike & pedestrian plan update concluded by the summer months. The remainder of the outreach list was implemented by the Committee at local community events as listed in Item 1.
4. *Provide a list of Directors and Members willing to assist with the presentations. A list shall be provided annually.* Both Board of Director and Communications Committee members participated in the 2016 outreach activities. Participation by others is always welcome.
5. *Provide an estimation of costs expected to be incurred for these presentations. These estimates shall be renewed annually.* Several of the community events required a fee to participate and those fees were noted for future use during the budgeting process as were printing costs for informational and promotional materials. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors about expenditures required for outreach.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

With St. Croix County's bike & pedestrian plan scheduled for County Board approval in the second quarter of 2017, the Committee's outreach activities will continue to provide accurate information about connecting trails throughout the county and possible ways the Trail Coalition can facilitate those connections in venues recommended by the Committee.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mark Gherty
Susan Heuser
Andrew Lamers
Tim Witzman, Chairperson

Ben Heuser
André Johnson
Mark Vanasse

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Appendix C – Highway 64 Trail Corridor Committee White Paper Report

The Highway 64 Corridor Trail Committee was created by the St. Croix Bike and Pedestrian Trail Coalition in mid-2016 to research and provide a variety of information to the Coalition regarding collaboration between and among the Highway 64 corridor communities. Organizations identified as part of the Hwy 64 corridor were the Towns of Richmond, St. Joseph, Somerset and Star Prairie, the Village of Somerset, New Richmond's Pathways Committee and the City of New Richmond. The purpose of this committee is to insure trails will ultimately connect from the Loop Trail being constructed as a part of the St. Croix River Crossing Project into the City of New Richmond.

The reason for creation of the Committee is to gather corridor communities and organizations to keep all entities updated regarding the latest trail initiatives in each municipality, something that had largely not been occurring in past years. Each of the organizations was asked to pass the Committee Charter at their Town/Village/City/Committee boards/councils/meetings – which each organization did. A second request to appoint a representative from each organization to the Committee was responded to by six of the seven organizations.

With most of the appointed representatives in place, the Committee met three times in the fall of 2016. The majority of the discussion at these meetings revolved around current plans/possibilities in each municipality, proposals for trails in the St. Croix County updated bike & pedestrian plan and how those plans coordinate. Appointed members are well versed in current plans in their municipalities, knowledgeable about roads and their viability for heavier trail traffic expected with the opening of the St. Croix River Crossing, and excited about discussing trail connections to link the corridor trails from the Loop Trail in the Town of St. Joseph to the City of New Richmond.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

With the base of knowledge established at these initial meetings and with the expected approval of the county's updated bike and pedestrian plan by the entire County Board during the second quarter of 2017, the Committee recommends continual quarterly/semiannual meetings to keep all members apprised of each community's plans so preparations to support initiatives along the corridor as a group can be made as proposals come forward.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bob Campbell

André Johnson, Vice Chairperson

Jim Peirson

Tim Witzmann

Susan Heuser, Chairperson

Kyle Lindstrom

Jim Remington

Mark Vanasse serves as minute taker but is not a member of the Committee.