



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, January 13, 2016 7:00 pm, Owosso Township Hall, Owosso, Michigan

Minutes

1. **Meeting Called to Order** –Chairperson Knight called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call**
 - a. **Present:** Dave Weber, Kyle Knight, Kathy Simon, Janice Gustafson, Pam Weisenburger, Barry Culham, Ardelle Rodgers, Terry McLeod
 - b. **Absent:** Guy Buckingham, Marshall Baker
 - c. **Guests:** Bob Flynn, Doug Hyland, Dannie Miller
3. **Approve the Minutes** – **MOTION** to approve the minutes of December 9, 2015. Weber/Rodgers M/S/P
4. **Public Comment** - Mr. Flynn says one of the volunteers is accredited to cut down trees (however, we have not yet received a volunteer form from this individual). Culham suggested that we add a checkbox for chainsaw accreditation to our volunteer form. He will revise the form accordingly. Mr. Flynn reported that there has been car traffic on the trail in the Ovid area. He also mentioned Rick Hogle may be interested in shuttling riders from end of the trail back to Owosso area, something to consider for a future fund raiser.
5. **Approve the Agenda** – **MOTION** to approve the amended agenda. (Knight pointed out the agenda needs to be amended with the correct date.) Gustafson/Weber M/S/P
6. **Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority** – McLeod reported that the current balance is \$37,338.39. They will be requesting another \$75,000 from the Grand Rapids Foundation. Prefer to leave as much funds as possible with the Foundation for investment growth. Meeting schedule was approved. They accepted eight goals for their 2016 Strategic Planning . Nancy Krupriarz sent information regarding the Americore Program, but more information is needed about the cost. McLeod stated that the "No Horse" signs should be in this week. But when she ordered the bolts and locking nuts she did not order enough for the new signs. Knight will get a price from Gilroy's in St. Johns. Next meeting is next Thursday, January 28, 2016.
7. **Financial Report** – Gustafson updated budget for 2016, adding \$500 for bike ride. No activity in December. Operating balance is \$11,627.41. **MOTION** to approve Financial Report as presented. Rodgers/Weber M/S/P
8. **Fund Raising** – None.
9. **Community Outreach/Fairs, Festivals, etc.** - None.
10. **Old Business**
 - a) **Trail Maintenance - Spring Cleanup - Update** - Knight discussed possible challenge between high school leadership groups on clean up. He has spoken to St. Johns high school and they are interested. Knight will contact the other schools. Possible date of April 23, 2016 (Earth Day) Bob Flynn says there's about 50 tires dumped between Ovid and Smith Road. McLeod says she may be able to dump some junk in the Venice Park

dump as an adjacent land owner, but we will need to identify an additional means of disposal.

- b) *Signage - Update*- see Item #6 - Update from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority.
- c) *Bike Ride* - Knight talked to Craig Smith (Main Street Pizza) and he is on board. However, Culham pointed out that we are quite late in the year to properly plan a good event. Board consensus to table this event until 2017. Will revisit in May of 2016 over dinner in St. Johns outside of our normal meeting times.
- d) *Trail Coordinator* - MWMTA is working on this.
- e) *DALMAC Grant Request* - Culham pointed out that DALMAC does not approve grant request for wages so would probably not approve a grant to pay for a trail coordinator. However, they may fund a study, like Chuck Nelson's idea. Their focus is primarily the promotion of bicycles and bicycling.
- f) *Policy on memorials and art work* - tabled.
- g) *State Park Rules - Update* - no concrete answer yet from DNR, however, there is nothing prohibiting hunting.
- h) *Brochures - Update* - Culham passed out draft for discussion. Discussion on size, maps, etc. Changes are mostly cosmetic. Agreed that a smaller size would be sufficient (cut out "Our Role", membership form, etc.). He would like to send to the printer first of March. Needs to be approved by MDOT for Welcome Centers. We need to decide how many to print and which Welcome Centers we want them placed in.
- i) *Annual Meeting* - Weisenburger contacted Memorial Healthcare. Their auditorium is available on Thursday, March 17 at the cost of \$3/person includes coffee, ice tea water & cookies. (Owosso Township Hall would be big enough, however, they do not have enough chairs.) We will plan for 50 people. Culham will ask Mark Howe to be our keynote speaker, and will also ask Nancy Krupriarz to say a few words. We will also recognize volunteers.
- j) *Recognition of Volunteers* - Discussed presentation of certificates to volunteers at our annual meeting (we have about 10 volunteers that have completed forms). Simon will handle development of certificates.
- k) *Newsletter* - Simon would like all articles submitted to her by January 22. Newsletter to be formatted between January 23 and February 4. Final draft to printer by February 5. Newsletters will be compiled, addressed and stamped prior to the February board meeting.
- l) *Master Plan* - tabled permanently.

11. New Business

- a) *Review of draft document - Trail Maintenance* - McLeod asked that everyone review and send comments to her. She passed out volunteer log form for volunteers to complete. These should be given to all new volunteers. Discussed possibly adding this as a fillable form on our website.
- b) *Trail Event Requests* - We received two new racing events from Frank Management for 5k, 10k and half marathons in Ionia and St. Johns. **MOTION** to support races pending proof of insurance. Culham/Gustafson M/S/P

12. Next Meeting Date/Location –February 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton County Courthouse, first floor conference room. Board members please come between 5:30-6:00 pm for newsletter assembly.

13. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm **MOTION** Weisenburger/Gustafson M/S/P

Minutes taken by Kathy Simon