



MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Friends of The Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails was held on Thursday, March 11 at the Belding Depot. It began at 6:05 pm and was presided over by Wayne Addis. Minutes recorded by Secretary Lynn Mason.

Attendees

Voting directors in attendance included: Ron Gunderson, Lynn Mason, Mark Grieves, Robert Brown (remotely) and Wayne Addis. A quorum was present.

Guest in attendance: None

Directors not in attendance: Alan Teelander (ill) and Mark Fritsma (vacation). It was moved by Lynn and seconded by Mark G. to excuse their absences. Motion approved 6-0

Approval of Agenda: Approved as printed. Chad moved Mark G. seconded. 6-0

Approval of Minutes: February minutes were moved to approve by Ron and seconded by Mark G. Motion carries 6-0.

Treasurer's Report: Chad reported the following: All Bills are paid we are solvent

We Balance to the penny at 142470.14

We had an income of \$864.91

0 Lifetime Memberships were sold

5 Yearly memberships were sold

1 bench was sold

We had Expenses of 445.00

There were no bills to vote on.

Authority Report: Ron reported that the following Resolution was discussed and voted on:

Resolution: **EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FOR THE MID-WEST MICHIGAN TRAIL AUTHORITY TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

The stance of the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority is that the Authority will not own any maintenance equipment, either power or hand tools.

The maintenance budget for each Friends group reflects a line item to pay for personal tool replacement and or repair for their dedicated trail maintenance coordinator only, which will be reimbursed with Authority grant money. This includes power and hand tools, chain loops and bars, as well as maintenance tools (including, but not limited to: shovels, rakes, files, bar oil, fuel, trimmer line, batteries, chargers and protective gear required by the DNR.

However, this line item does not cover replacement equipment for the occasional volunteer who breaks their personal tools while helping out on the trail. It is the responsibility of the Friends' Group to decide whether or not to replace the broken tool out of their own budget. (continued)
The responsibilities of the trail maintenance coordinator includes weed whipping, trimming of brush and trees, as well as tree removal and trail surface repairs. The Authority will reimburse this

individual for mileage related to trail maintenance and for any equipment purchased or repaired by them for the express purpose of trail maintenance.

Two grants of \$10,000 were approved. Our trail section and the CIS section.

They approved to pay the liability insurance. Lastly, they had discussion on snow removal, to be continued at the next meeting.

Maintenance Report: Ron reported:

Signage: Two new yield signs have been ordered for replacement in Belding section.

Benches: Ron will contact those who have indicated they wish to sponsor a bench. Cost for benches remains the same as 2020, engraving costs are up a little.

Storytime Trail: Still waiting on the number of additional Libraries.

Tree Work: Two trees were removed in Ionia section.

Kiosks and Trash Receptacles: No discussion

Greenville Section: none

Punch List: Still working on it.

There are still items on the punch list.

Parking: None

Events: James Frank from Run MI Cheap contacted Ron. He was given the packet provided by the DNR. First someone who wishes to hold an event on this trail, must come before the Board first.

Then, if the Board accepts the event, the Board recommends it to the DNR. They have 90 days to consider. The packet contains some new guidelines and Covid readiness expectations.

Chair Report: Robert continues discussions with Tom Byle and others pertaining to discrepancies of funding. They are supposed to meet on this again. We are to expect to go over budget and possibly will need to approach the Meijer Foundation. The trail work is not complete yet. Our expectation is that Kent County will send any bills to contractor McQuestion.

Public Comment: none

New Business: Annual business meeting. It was moved by Ron, seconded by Chad to suspend the bylaws and have election of officers at the next meeting. Motion carries 6-0.

Unfinished Business: none

Director Comments: Lynn reported on LARA remote meeting last night. They approved the application for grand funding for their section. Some members of the public asked questions and shared concerns. They will meet in person on April 14th. If someone wants to see the final proposal for this section, they can go on the LARA website.

Ron reported that the city of Ionia plans to update Balice Park and is requesting to connect to our trail. Plans are available for review. Also, the city of Ionia shared plans for a trailhead near the DPW. They wish a letter of support. We all agreed that is possible.

Rob Florian generously donated 100 updated lifetime membership cards to our group. Thank you! Someone is building a house on Montcalm Ave, NE of the trail. They are working with the DNR and Consumers on whether to run power lines overhead or under the trail.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:52. Motion by Wayne seconded by Mark G. Motion carries 6-0.