

# MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2021

## Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Friends of The Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails was held on Thursday, February 11 at the Belding Depot. It began at 6:01 pm and was presided over by Mark Fritsma. Minutes recorded by Secretary Lynn Mason.

## Attendees

Voting directors in attendance included: Ron Gunderson, Lynn Mason, Mark Grieves, Mark Fritsma and Wayne Addis. A quorum was present.

Guest in attendance: None

Directors not in attendance: Chair Robert Brown (meeting), Chad Farlee (work) and Alan Teelander (ill). It was moved by Lynn and seconded by Mark G. to excuse their absences. Motion approved 5-0

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved as printed.

**Approval of Minutes:** January minutes were moved for approval by Wayne and seconded by Mark G. Motion carries 5-0.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chad was absent but reported the following in an email:

All Bills are paid we are solvent

We Balance at 142,050.23

We had an income 130.00

0 Lifetime Memberships where sold

0 yearly Membership where sold or renewed

We had Expenses of 458.65

We discussed a Facebook donation of \$130. The books are back from Data Specialists in regard to the audit. It was reported that Chad did an excellent job. Only had to move a couple of checks.

The GRCF balance is \$3,310,845.11. Available to all 3 Friends group is \$542,000 interest over 4 years.

The dollars available through the Authority for 2021 Maintenance are \$46,650. Our budget is now limited to only maintenance dollars. Will need to go to Authority for over and above.

**Authority Report:** Ron reported that the Authority had an on-line meeting. Ally Cook and Karen Banks are now the Commissioners representing Ionia County. There was a financial draw from the Foundation of \$142,000 which will be placed at Ionia County. Ron has retained the seat of Chairperson. Thank you Ron! They tabled the issue of adding Kent, Montcalm, Gratiot and Clinton Counties until there is an in person meeting.

**Maintenance Report:** Ron reported:

**Signage:** We have received 10 signs and posts for the environmentally sensitive area. Other signs also came in. Many of the signs with spelling errors have been replaced.

**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:** Tree work will be done between now and the end of March.

**Kiosks and Trash Receptacles:** No discussion

**Greenville Section:** Doug Hinkin discussed the closing out. Greenville will be sending us money back, approximately \$50,000

**Punch List:**

There are still items on the punch list.

**Parking:** We discussed some possible solutions to parking in areas near 3 Mile, Bailey, etc.

A **special request** was made, and granted, to have someone use an ATV for transport of a person with disabilities to a wedding. A temporary permit given.

**Events:** None that we are aware of.

**Chair Report:** Robert is working on the 501c3 paperwork and discussing various issues with KCRC.

**Public Comment:** none

**New Business:** Snow plowing: After discussion Wayne moved and Lynn seconded to approve paying \$75 for the Lowell section, Vergennes to Foreman. Ron's discussion if more plowing times are necessary. Motion carries 5-0.

**Unfinished Business:** Website: Mark G. will contact someone he knows.

**Director Comments:** Mark F. reported on LARA and us taking care of snow plowing. We discussed Saranac, Belding and Ionia as well.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41. Motion by Wayne seconded by Mark G. Motion carries 5-0.