



Friends of the Musketawa Trail Board Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2023

7:00 p.m. Ravenna Village Office
12090 Crockery Creek Road



Millennium Trail 2000
National Recreation Trail 2008

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendees: Tim Nink, Paul Boucon, Mark Fritsma, Gary DeKok, Oscar Reed, Diana Holovka, Cari Draft and James Smith.
Absent: Joan Schmitt and George Czinder
Guests: Greg Sherburn/DNR

1. **Meeting called to order 7:01pm** : Tim Nink, president
2. **Secretary report - Cari Draft** : Meeting minutes from August 3 reviewed; Motion and second to approve as written. Unanimously approved.
3. **Treasurer report - Diana Holovka** : No questions; Motion & second to approve treasurer's report. Unanimously approved.
4. **Correspondence**
 - a. Emails: Main flurry was surrounding a lady in Ottawa County who is using her golf cart on the trail with a handicap tag.
 - b. Mail correspondence: Nothing to note.
5. **Trail Manager Report from Muskegon County/Greg Sherburn**: There's been quite a bit of surveying and marking activity as prep begins for resurfacing, very exciting! Report from **Kate Alvarez/Ottawa County** via email to Tim: repeat of the same; she mentions that we'll be seeing more of the survey trucks along the trail in the coming months.
6. **Website** : Cari asked about the minutes in the archive, and Tim said he would be adding the last seven PDFs when he can make the time.
7. **Current Expenditures**: Requests for reimbursement from Tim (\$107.27 paint & bench repair materials) and that was all. Reimbursement approval first & seconded and unanimously approved.
8. **Brochure/trail map**: Whoever needs more, contact Tim!
9. **PROJECT LIST - 2023 pending/future**
 - a.) **Current/existing 2023**:
 - i. Ravenna Trailhead caboose **Open House** days have been coordinated by Gary and Linda on Sat. June 3, Sat. July 1 and Sat. August 5 from 10am to 2pm. Gary set up the tent and brought water along with the keys to unlock the depot, and has volunteers help.
 - ii. Paul reviewed and revised the FOTMT Bylaws and board members approved at our August meeting; Tim signed at October meeting with the board as witnesses.
 - iii. The Sharon Davis Memorial metal arts bike was installed April 21.
 - iv. Trail etiquette laminated signs were installed at trail head kiosks.
 - v. The Muskegon/Broadway Trailhead cleanup volunteer event coincided with Earth Day in April. The smashed flower box was replaced at the entrance and the plaque was re-installed.

(continued)

b.) Current:

vi. Oscar started painting the Muskegon bike rack; just the primer took 2-1/2 hours. More to do! Tim will paint the rack at the 8th Ave Trailhead, probably in the spring.

c.) Future/longer term:

vii. Ed Holovka Memorial, to be located at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head.

Tim has the updated cost of the metal 12' x 12' structure at a cost of \$18,258.

Discussion to set goal of Spring 2024 for construction, provided we raise the funds needed by then; **need ideas for fundraising and grant requests to create a plan to acquire additional funds over the next few months. Cari suggested breaking the project into parts/pieces to solicit in-kind donations from nearby businesses like Lowe's, WalMart, etc, as well as cash donations from industries whose employees could benefit from the trailhead structure on their work breaks. Cari will keep investigating options through the winter.**

Tim suggested reworking our trail shirt design and selling shirts as a fundraiser; Cari can work on this. Gary is putting together Ed's story and "wish List" to encourage more member donations toward the project.

d.) Future/2024:

viii. Cari will organize the Broadway Trailhead Cleanup event again to coincide with Earth Day weekend, the morning of April 20. Board members please save the date to join us, remember, always yummy treats after! (smile)

10. Spring/summer 2023 issue of the Friends Newsletter has been drafted and will be going out the end of October.

11. Friends board meeting dates for 2024: **4/4, 6/6, 8/1 & 10/3** (all Thursdays at 7PM in Ravenna)

12. Discussion regarding Joan Schmitt's board status; Cari has written a personalized letter detailing Joan's dedicated service and expressing the board's gratitude, as well as a more "public announcement" of her retirement from the board for our newsletter. Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved for Diana to send the letter as written, which Tim signed, and Cari will email the text for the announcement in the newsletter to Tim to edit to fit.

13. Mark mentioned the West Michigan Trail Summit will be October 24 from 8:30am to 11:30am at the Walker City Hall.

16. **Motion to Adjourn** at 7:55pm, seconded and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Cari Draft, Secretary 10/5/23

Annual dinner at Whitlow's, 2023

