

Minutes - FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: February 7, 2022

Meeting Location: Zoom meeting

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice-President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Lydia Haynes; Adam Maus

Minutes

Bill motioned and Lydia seconded to accept the January 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of January 2022 balance of \$40,693.04 in the Farmers Savings Bank checking account. REI received their third packet of trail passes before January ended! They usually don't sell this many in a whole year. Nothing unusual happened financially this month. Kate Teasdale from the Riley tavern, who has experience with QuikBooks, is interested in taking over the work that Lydia does on the books. Lydia and Kate will meet, and Lydia will teach Kate the process. There was discussion about if Kate needed to attend the meetings. Sarah motioned and Dave seconded that we accept the financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

DNR Topics

We are still waiting to hear about the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant we submitted. DNR thought it would be about 2-4 weeks until they will hear something back.

Kevin needs the documents for the annual report.

The extra lane for the Epic exit on 18/151 project is moving quickly and will start in April. The project is funded mainly by Epic. It will be a continuous extra lane from the 18/151 Highway 69 entrance ramp up to the Epic exit ramp. We are expecting a trail closure for quite a while. Closure/reroutes of the trail will be on the DNR website. We could also post it on our website. Jerry asked if this could be added to our website as a banner. Lydia will look into this.

The DNR was contacted by MMSD (Madison Metropolitan Sewage District). They are going to be upgrading mains, etc. The first upgrade will result in a closure of the trail for about a day. A bigger project is a gravity feed project which will be later in the year.

ATC will be beginning corridor clearing this week east of Waltz Park. This fall ATC will do the section by Y/Z. They don't anticipate the trail being closed for this.

Brad and Kevin are working on combining millions of dollars of trail projects into like projects to expedite them. This may be due to some stimulus money coming in. They are combining projects for the 23-25 budget cycles. The turtle bridge rework may happen sooner than we thought. We can talk about adding the Palmer Haynes Animal Watching Platform to the turtle bridge once the project is active.

Facebook Page

Jerry did send the guidebook to Larry.

Solar panels on the maintenance building - Blue Mounds State Park

The solar panel project on the equipment shed is still moving forward.

ATC

Listening sessions are going on. The ATC people are moving forward with the trail even though courts have blocked the part of the trail that crosses the Mississippi Wildlife Area.

List of projects we completed in 2021

Once again, Jerry asked that we look at the list that Jerry sent of the projects completed in 2021 to us and see if anything needs to be added or edited.

Request for Membership

Ethan Nelson, a new member, mentioned on his membership form that he has website development experience. Bruce Paul is also interested in helping with facebook. Adam would also be interested in helping with the website. Lydia and Adam will talk about this.

Upcoming Friends Meetings

Sarah will request a room to meet in at Epic for the May FMRT Meeting and will ask for the 36 person room. She will also ask Armi (Epic contact) to send an email to Epic employees about the meeting.

March will be a zoom meeting that Dave Pearson will set up. We will start talking about the annual calendar in March. Carol Murphy would again like to hold monthly library readings at the depot in summer and fall. Carol would like to talk some about history as it involves the depot. Dave asked if Carol could come to the next meeting so we can gauge how much detail she wants in the depot history.

Hopefully the next in-person meeting will be April and this will be our annual meeting.

State Friends Group Meeting

The State Friends Group meeting is next Wednesday, February 9, 4-5pm. The group will be talking about funding sources. Jerry plans to attend.

Linda Lynch and Palmer Haynes Memorial

Bill will talk to Linda's daughter to get ideas of ways to memorialize Linda's work on trail. This will probably not be until April. Jerry will not put Linda Lynch memorial ideas on the agenda for a while.

Kiosk Cleanup

This will need to take place in April

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary