FRIENDS OF THE MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

P.O. Box 98, Blue Mounds, WI 53517-0098
(608)437-7393
A Nonprofit Citizens Organization

Meeting June 14, 2000

Present:

Keith Sincox - President
Sharon Betlach - Secretary
Ronald Betlach - Treasurer
Bill Kalschuer
Cindy Delkamp
Palmer Haynes

The meeting was held at the Ranger Station at Blue Mounds State Park.

The Secretaries and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Bank Account

Keith reported that he had opened a savings account at the Ridgeway Bank with his personal donation of $100.00. Cindy reported she had received a donation of $25.00 and had sent a thank you note. Sharon and Ron showed the group a suggestion for a thank you note and said they would check out costs of printing such notes.

Offer to Purchase

The Friends Group has heard nothing formally about the Offer to Purchase. Janis Tabor, the attorney, did finalize our Offer and forwarded it to Paul Angel, attorney to the Ayers Corporation. However, he is on vacation so we have not heard anything since. Keith will contact Jerry Ayers and impress on him and his lawyer the need to finalize the legal aspects of the Offer so we can begin to fund raise.

Graphic Illustration and Fund Raising

Palmer brought up the offer by Jim Anderson to illustrate a sketch of the depot which could be used for thank you notes, letterheads, etc. Given the cost ($1200) it was decided to wait and see if we received one of the grants which we could then use for seed money for such an expense.

Palmer also mentioned someone named Charlie who had told him of Chicago Northwestern Archives in Milwaukee. He will check into this. Charlie, a historic architect, is working on the Lodi depot.

Palmer talked to the people at Williamson St Bikes and they will help us by selling passes. He thought they might be willing to help us with the fund raising also. Sharon and Ron reported talking to Ken Hannes, a regional sales manager for Graber Bike Products, who said he would work to donate bike racks, locks, stand and help to get a bike donated for our fund raising project.

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Bill's report

Bill said Linda and Cindy had a busy day on June 3. They sold passes and worked around the Taylor Rock at the Verona Parking Lot. Bill put a poster in the kiosk at Mt. Horeb. He also reported that he had talked to John Hess of the Iowa Historical Society who said their group was small so their support of the Depot project would be limited but they could provide some memorabilia.

Cindy's report

Cindy reported on the trail washouts due to the heavy rain falls. She is asking for $15,000 - $20,000 from FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to do repairs. It was suggested she ask for more, given the extent of the damage. She met with an engineer to discuss options of the Rod Taylor observation deck at Riley. The erosion problem is getting worse. The least costly and easiest solution is to remove the sides of the deck, leaving just the middle section. She is going to contact the Taylor familty to let them know of the problem and possible solutions. She also mentioned the Balloon lift off on July 19 and the need for chase cars. She reported that the trail betweed PB and PD will have a parallel trail built for snowmobilers. The bike trail will be paved in this area. Hopefully the work will be completed this fall.

The next meeting is July 10, 2000 at the Ridgeway Depot at 7:00pm.

Sharon Betlach