

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: November 12, 2018

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds State Park Shelter

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Lydia Haynes; Palmer Haynes, Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Linda McMean; Bruce Paull, Ridgeway; Jennifer Meeker, Dodgeville; Helen Godfrey, Dodgeville; Donna Paull, Ridgeway

Minutes

Bill motioned to accept the minutes as amended and Lydia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of October balance of \$29,150.49 in the FMRT checking account. The balance is high because of money coming in from the trail passes. There is a payment pending to the DNR for these trail passes. We had some brick purchases. Sarah moved to approve the financial report, Dave seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda

Ridgeway Depot placement of a memorial bench - Jennifer Meeker would like to place a bench on the platform next to the depot in memory of Robin Reeson. Because of the weight of the proposed bench it has to be placed on a slab. The exact proposed location of the bench is unknown. The people placing the bench would like to be able to see the sunset from the bench. A memorial fund is paying for the bench, the slab, and the installation. The bench is the same as another bench placed near the ball field: that bench was approved by the Village of Ridgeway. The FMRT would like the bench people to take pictures of where they are proposing to locate the bench, Jerry will share photos with the group, then we will decide.

Vickie Stanger, Director of the Dodgeville Public Library, would like to have a reading hour once a month at the Depot, probably in the summer months. We think she would like to do this starting in the spring. Bill motioned that the library have use of the depot whenever they want if they are willing to cover any additional costs involved in the usage (heat if used in during the heating season, etc). There is the possibility that the library could buy internet access at the depot if the library paid for it. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously with one abstention.

MHADEC Proposed Green Space

The Mount Horeb Area Economic Development Corporation is proposing converting the area around the Mt Horeb 2nd Street shelter (including the parking lot) into a green space/park area. This project as of yet has no funding, no approval from

the village, and will not proceed unless the village acquires parking to replace the parking lost. Brad stated that the area on the east side of 2nd between the Duluth Building and the converted building is owned by the Federal Government. The group was very concerned about parking. MHAECD is holding a meeting Nov. 20, from 6-7:30 at Martinson Hall (108 S. 2nd Street) to roll out their proposal and invited the Friends to attend. Kevin said that Friends' group opinions on these projects carry a lot of weight with the DNR. Bill and Sarah will attend the meeting.

DNR News

The Verona school project has two culverts installed and construction is done for the year.

The trail next to Duluth has been repositioned and landscaped.

The trail around the Ridgeway exit/entrance ramps will be reopened by next week.

The Riley bridge has been reset and rebuilt (work of Brad and the crew). The DNR has been doing heavy mowing and chipping in the Riley area and has opened up a lot of the area next to the trail. They have shaved down to the creek in this area and treated a lot of invasives.

The DNR has mowed around the Riley parking lot. They need to scrap the lot and plant grass.

The DNR received the paperwork for the FMRT grant proposal for a bike repair station (2019 Stewardship grant). There was discussion about the slab needed for the repair station.

Kevin proposed replacing the kiosk in Ridgeway (this is the last year for the Stewardship grant). This kiosk is the last of the old style kiosks.

Blue Mounds is starting development of a new master plan. This new master plan will include a discussion of a possible snow mobile trail. The discussion is currently in the internal planning stage. The FMRT were invited to give input.

There were neighbor issues concerning a dead elm near the Ridgeway Depot. The DNR went out and removed the tree.

Friends of the Blue Mounds State Park is having another appreciation night Nov 13 at the Grumpy Troll (for those who worked at the Horribly Hilly)

2 small groups proposed by Jerry

One group would deal with mailing lists and include Sarah, Jerry, Lydia, and Bill and the other with commemorative bricks. Lots of bricks are chipped, broken, or

disintegrating. In some instances the wood surround is broken. This project could be work for the whole group next spring.

ATC

Dave passed out information about scoping sessions which are opportunities for citizen input to determine the range and detail of what is considered for the state environmental impact statements. Dave would like to put together comments from the FMRT and send it out to our board for edit/review, and then send it to the PSC on behalf of the group. Sarah proposed and Bill seconded that Dave prepares a draft letter to run past the board and then, after approval, send it to the PSC to indicate our concerns about the ATC line. The proposal passed unanimously.

The group decided not to meet in December unless something big comes up.

The next meeting is Monday, January 14, 2019 at the Blue Mounds State Park Shelter. The meeting will start at 6:00. Jerry will be gone.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary