

FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

Meeting Date: February 11, 2019

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds State Park Friends Shelter

Friends attending: Jerry Wilson, President; Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Sarah Castello, Secretary; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR; Dumont Schmidt

Minutes

Dave motioned to accept the minutes from the previous month, Bill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial report showed an end of January balance of \$25,505.89 in the FMRT checking account. The usual beginning of the year payments were made: post office box, web site, and the domain fee. Purdue signs were paid this month. Dave motioned approval of the financial report, Sarah seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ideas for getting more volunteers/Friends

The following ideas were discussed for getting more people involved in the trail: encouraging people to adopt parts of the trail, getting people to take ownership of the trail, Friend members being a presence on the trail (handing out fliers, etc. while working the trail) so people know of the groups existence, and, Friends wearing FMRT tee-shirts.

DNR Report

-Scheidegger's Kiosk

The proof for the Scheidegger bench was sent to the DNR. Bill sent a check to pay for the Friends part in the project. The DNR has rebuilt the majority of the kiosk and is waiting for good weather to put it back together.

-The Duluth trading company dog leg in the trail issue is still an issue.

-DNR members meet about the proposed green space. The DNR reviewed the proposal and responded to EDC about their ideas. The main concern is the loss of parking. The DNR thinks that the planned paths, etc. are too much for such a small spot.

-Blue Mounds Park Master plan

The first internal meeting about the Master Plan will be held in March. There are separate master plans for the trail and the park.

-The annual audit is coming up soon.

-Kevin is still working on FEMA paperwork.

- Bridge repairs

Once the snow melts the DNR will start repairs. Kevin proposes using cement sections and iron railings instead of replacing the rotten wood with more wood planking and wooden rails. The DNR is working with a company that will cast 4 foot and 2 foot prestressed reinforced 4 inch sections. They have the money to do the worst of the worst bridges (maybe around 6). An engineer is working with the DNR to design bridges that will be the best structurally and long lasting using the existing bridge structures. This is a learning project for the DNR. The DNR does have some money for the cement slab bridges but needs more.

-Kevin brought up the idea of the FMRT starting an endowment. Dave suggested that we put it on our list of projects for 2019 and we table the discussion until the next meeting. Jerry will contact Mark Cis about this. March is the month for the Big Give where people donate to non-profits.

ATC

No updates

The group adjourned at 7:30.

The next meeting is 6:00 pm, Monday, March 11, 2019 at the Blue Mounds State Park Shelter.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Castello, Secretary