

## **FRIENDS of MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL Minutes**

Meeting Date: March 11, 2019

Meeting Location: Blue Mounds State Park Friends Shelter

Friends attending: Dave Pearson, Vice President; Bill Kalscheur, Treasurer; Kevin Swenson, DNR; Brad Bates, DNR, Palmer Haynes, Linda McMeen, Lydia Haynes, Patti and Rodney Albers. Patti and Rodney were introduced as they had not attended a meeting before this time.

In the absence of President Jerry Wilson, Dave Pearson, Vice President presided at the meeting.

The motion to accept as presented the Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2019 was made by Bill, seconded by Linda and approved.

The financial reports were distributed and showed a balance at the end of February of \$24,631.69. Bill noted that expenses for new signs are included in this report. Motion made by Palmer and seconded by Bill to accept this report as presented and file. Motion approved.

The second Saturday of June which will be June 8 is Hyde Family Friendly Day from 10 am to 3 pm. Last year the depot was opened late morning to allow people to tour after their trip to Hyde Mill. Dave and Palmer volunteered to staff the depot from 11 am to 3 pm. Motion made by Palmer, second by Bill to open the depot June 8, 2019 from 11am to 3 pm. Motion approved.

The group previously approved opening the depot for the Dodgeville library to conduct story times this summer but no dates have been requested.

### **DNR Report**

Brad reported maps have been produced for the kiosks along the trail. These maps should last 3-5 years and will help visitors with wayfinding. A larger sign cost \$100 and will be installed on the back side of a kiosk. Smaller signs cost \$40-\$50 and will be in kiosks behind glass. There are also smaller signs showing direction to such locations as bike repair.

The newly repainted bridge in Mt. Horeb where the trail crosses Springdale Street has had problems with trucks that are too high trying to go through. New signs listing the maximum vehicle height will be placed on each side of the bridge.

The Scheidegger memorial bench and sign was made by Dew Signs and is ready to be painted. Brad and Kevin will do the painting.

Kevin will meet with Jeff Rundell about straightening the trail between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. It was moved during the Duluth construction and a promise was made to return it to its former location when construction was finished.

There is also an issue with bollard lights a group wants to install. That would make maintenance of the trail more difficult.

Area of the trail near Ridgeway that had a steep up and down section that was a biking hazard has now been paved near the Ridgeview Road exit. It is a good improvement.

Master planning meetings will be starting. Blue Mounds State Park will be first, then MRT. Later the rest of the SW Grasslands Savanna area. This is a new way to do Master Planning.

This year the Enhancement Grant will fund projects like kiosks, bike repair stand, signage, and a survey. The total cannot exceed \$5000. In the past Stewardship Grants were used to fund projects. With Enhancement Grants, we send a check to the DNR for the amount of the project and they send reimbursement. With Stewardship Grants, we filled out the paperwork for the project and they sent the money to FMRT. Concrete slab will need to be billed separately. The bike repair stand has already been ordered by the DNR and received.

### **ATC Report**

The ATC time line for submissions was discussed. An ATC power line editorial in the State Journal written by David Clutter and George Meyer was enclosed in the packet that was distributed. It is worth reading.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:02.**

**Next Meeting:** April 8, 6 pm sharp. Calendar develop was postponed to April 8 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Haynes, substitute for secretary