

MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors City of New Richmond Mary Park - September 9, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

ALL TO ORDER – Johnson, the Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE – The agenda was posted at the Town of Somerset Town Hall and on the Coalition web site.

ROLL CALL – Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuser, André Johnson, Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom, Paul McGinnis and Mark Vanasse. Dave Mandel and Alternates Andrew Lamers and Brandi Popenhagen were absent. Also present were Ben Heuser and Janet Lindstrom.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - A **motion** (Gherty, McGinnis) to adopt the agenda as presented. **Carried** with no opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer. There was none.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – May 13, 2020 – A **motion** (Gherty, Kaiser) to approve the May 13, 2020 minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Communications Committee – Gherty discussed largely the UP RR Trestle Property and the Goals and Objectives plan. Other topics from the August 31st meeting are discussed below.

Financial Report – Vanasse discussed September’s financial report, noting little change from the August report. There were no questions from the Board.

Healthier Together – Susan Heuser indicated the Healthier Together library backpack to get kids outside doing fun activities is about to get to the Somerset Library in the next weeks. The building project, a new librarian, and pandemic issues have delayed getting the backpack to Somerset. Other libraries in St. Croix and Pierce Counties have been using their backpacks since spring.

McGinnis is going to assume the Coalition’s position on this committee moving forward.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – There was no discussion of this item.

Pathway – Susan Heuser relayed information about the many and varied projects this New Richmond area committee has on its working list especially highlighting the unique Willow River Water Trail.

Beyond the Loop – Susan Heuser indicated brochures are being taken at a steady pace from the box location just across from the Houlton Trailhead. Future brochure placement plans will rely on the use of this first location.

Lift and Loop – Gherty indicated there is a plan to hold this celebration of the opening of the Historic Stillwater Lift Bridge close to the first anniversary of its actual opening, June 1, 2021. The celebration itself and the large *Hands Across the Croix* project will all be determined by pandemic restrictions at the time.

Bike Rack Initiative – Johnson reported the Chicago Iron Works is open for business, WITC is having in person classes and final planning needs to take place with the instructor to create these bike racks as the fall semester progresses.

Trail Summit – Gherty reported that the Hudson Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee is strongly in favor of holding this event in the spring of 2021, pandemic restrictions allowing. Other entities participating in the planning for the event will make decisions in early 2021 about specifics.

Others that may be available - The map of St. Croix County’s 3 stage plan for completing an off-road trail between the northern end of the Village of North Hudson and the Loop Trail was discussed since the County has received notification that Phase 1 of the plan has been funded with a WisDOT TAP grant. Vanasse and others suggested a count of Loop Trail users would be helpful for advocating for future trail sections, especially noting anecdotal evidence of heavy use of the Loop Trail. McGinnis noted his connections to Andersen Scout Camp and that organization’s willingness to participate in trail discussions. Further discussion

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noted Andersen Scout Camp Road's unsuitability for trail traffic with the only saving grace being low traffic volume.

ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Election of Officers – A **motion** (Johnson, Gherty) to nominate Kyle Lindstrom for the empty Vice Chairperson seat for the Trails Coalition. **Carried** with no opposition. A **motion** (Gherty, Kaiser) to keep in place the current officers. [André Johnson, Chairperson; Mark Vanasse, Treasurer; Susan Heuiser, Secretary and Grants Coordinator]. **Carried** with no opposition.
2. Fund Raisers – After discussion about the state of fundraisers during the pandemic era, a **motion** (Vanasse, Gherty) to require membership dues to the Coalition in 2021, with the proposed amount being \$30, and to create a document telling the Coalition's story. Vanasse and others discussed several specific suggestions about levels of membership, rewards for membership, etc. Suggestions were made that a committee be formed to consider possibilities. Vanasse has no plans for a fund raiser during the rest of 2020. **Carried** with no opposition.
3. Go Daddy Ownership Issues – Complete information was not available so there was no discussion of this issue. It will be put on the next meeting's agenda.
4. UP RR Trestle Bridge Possibilities – Gherty gave a preview of the September 14th Visioning Meeting regarding introducing the possibilities for this Union Pacific property currently for sale to energize people.
5. Updating Coalition Goals and Objectives Using Suggestions from David Brooks' book *The Second Mountain* - Susan Heuiser introduced the topic noting good suggestions from Brooks' book that could perhaps be used to frame the Trail Coalition's discussion of its Goals and Objectives.
 - a) How to Use the Brooks' Outline – Two suggestions from the Communications Committee were discussed as noted below.
 - i. Ongoing Discussion Moving Forward – A suggestion that the Goals and Objectives be a recurring item on every meeting agenda to keep the document current and make decisions about projects based on that document moving forward.
 - ii. Addition of Action Plans to the Document – A suggestion to add Action Plans to the Goals and Objectives to provide implementation ideas of a shorter duration with the Action Plans being continually updated.

There was general consensus that the Coalition start with this concept to see how it works. It was agreed that the Communications Committee would work on implementation of the idea.
 - b) Framing – defines context – This item was not discussed due to time and daylight constraints. It will be placed on the next meeting agenda.
 - c) Narrative – telling the Coalition story - This item was not discussed due to time and daylight constraints. It will be placed on the next meeting agenda.
6. Others – There were no other items presented.
7. Set next meeting date – October 14, 2020 – The next meeting was set for **October 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.** Venue to be determined.

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Fund Raisers, Go Daddy Ownership Issues, UP RR Project, Goals and Objectives (Framing – Defines Context & Narrative – telling the Coalition Story)

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – No items presented at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Gherty, McGinnis) to adjourn. **Carried** at ~ 8:00 p.m. with no opposition.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuiser, Secretary