

MINUTES St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors Somerset Library, November 9, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Mark Vanasse, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Board members present were Mark Gherty Susan Heuiser, Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom, Paul McGinnis and Mark Vanasse. Board member Dave Mandel was absent. Ben Heuiser was also present

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A **motion** (Lindstrom, Gherty) 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 – October 12, 2022 – A **motion** (McGinnis, Gherty) to approve the October 12, 2022, minutes. **Carried** with no opposition.

REPORTS - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors
Communications Committee – In Tim Witzmann's, Communications Committee Chairperson, absence, Gherty reported a very positive meeting with the River Falls Rotary club detailing trail specifics in St. Croix County in general and River Falls in particular.

Financial Report – Vanasse, Treasurer, discussed the November Financial Report. There were no questions.

Healthier Together – McGinnis reported the Committee is working on replacing backpacks for the Library Backpack program, putting 2023 St. Croix County Park passes in the backpacks, working with Willow River State Park to get State Park passes in the backpacks and procuring materials from Carpenter Nature Center as additional activity information for the backpacks.

He also reported continuing work by WiKi Mountain Bike Club on the Mountain Biking Trails contained in Willow River and Kinnickinnic State Parks. In particular in Willow River State Park there are some newly created, rough bike trails already installed to connect the Mountain Biking Trail to the northwest corner of the park, to connect the Willow Falls area of the park to County Road A and to connect the Willow Falls area of the park to River Road. When finished, the surface of the trails will be crushed limestone.

There was a suggestion to ask Aaron Mason, State Parks Superintendent, to attend a meeting to discuss the trail plans for the parks.

Hwy 64 Trail Corridor Committee – Susan Heuiser reported an especially informative meeting with the representatives of the communities along the Hwy 64 Trails Corridor between the Loop Trail and the City of New Richmond. Specifically, two new Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) awards were received in the 2022 funding round – the Town of St. Joseph and the Village of Somerset. 2022 Construction projects in the City of New Richmond include one funded by an earlier TAP grant award and a County bridge replacement project on the eastern side of the City. The Town of Somerset had applied for two separate grant applications. Their TAP grant request was not funded in the 2022 round and they are still waiting on news of their Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant application. Road construction details in the Town of Richmons were also discussed. Lots of trail activity along the corridor.

Pathway – Susan Heuiser reported no meetings of this group since the last Coalition meeting.

Beyond the Loop – Susan Heuiser reported sign correction issues have yet to be accomplished along this trail.

Bike Repair Station in Troy – McGinnis reported he and Jill Berke, Troy Park Board Chair, filed a grant application in the Hudson Hospital Foundation's fall round to fund a bike repair station, roof covering and a kiosk to display trail accommodations within the Town.

Others that may be available – There was discussion about various dangerous intersections across the County Road system that could use some signage, road striping, flashing light, etc. treatment. The hope would be to raise awareness of the increasing trail traffic along sometimes hazardous roadways before a terrible accident occurs. A list was started for discussion with St. Croix County.

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ITEMS for discussion and/or action

1. Bike Rack Initiative – All available bike hitches have been placed in a location, though some have yet to be installed. Discussion centered around whether and how to continue this project. The conclusion was to see whether there are requests for further hitches, start a file of requests and reach out to other biking organizations to see whether they want to partner in the project.
2. Memorial to André Johnson – Vanasse reported there will be a Somerset Middle School *Bike to School* celebration in André's honor in 2023. Details about a memorial remain under discussion.
3. Economic/Tourism Informational Presentation – Gherty discussed the Polk County Tourism conference in October he had attended and then the beginning formation of a committee to have a similar event in St. Croix and Pierce Counties. Meeting dates, locations, topics, invitees, etc. were briefly discussed. Persons on the Tourism Committee took various contacts to make with the goal to get some big picture basics decided before the holidays and then work on details in the New Year.
4. Outreach Long and Short Term – In Tim Witzmann's absence, Susan Heuser discussed plans for the Communication Committee to get some specific ideas and tools in place to quickly respond to requests that may come in about information regarding the Coalition, its goals and its projects. Work will begin in the New Year.
5. Union Pacific Railroad Trestle - Gherty indicated a preliminary Mission Statement for the group had been reached at the last meeting. He also reported a meeting with National Park Service's *River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program* regional staff from the 13 state region that contains Wisconsin. Holly Larson, the RTCA leader for the UP Railroad Trestle project, invited them to the site as a part of their annual regional meeting being held in St. Paul this year. There was much interest in the possibilities of the site by these professionals and perhaps some further thoughts from them as this project continues.
6. 2023 Budget – The 2023 Annual Proposed Budget was discussed by the group as changes are being made to the format of the budget and monthly report. Ultimately, a **motion** (Vanasse, Kyle Lindstrom) to adopt the 2023 budget. **Carried** with no opposition.
7. Others – Several methods of fund raising were discussed as budget details were highlighted. Vanasse and Kaiser will meet to discuss options and details and be ready in 2023 with a proposed approach.
8. Set next meeting date – January 11, 2023 or OTHER – The next meeting was set for January 11, 2023 via *Zoom*

ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA – Economic Tourism Event, Outreach Long and Short Term, UP RR Trestle Project

ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA – Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT – A **motion** (Gherty, Lindstrom) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at ~ 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Heuser, Secretary