

## MINUTES Joint Meeting

### St. Croix Bike & Ped Trails Coalition Board of Directors & Communications Committee Somerset Library, 208 Hud Street, Somerset, WI January 10, 2024, 3:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mark Vanasse, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at ~ 3:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** - – Board members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuiser, Pam Kaiser, Kyle Lindstrom, and Mark Vanasse. Paul McGinnis was absent.

Communication Committee Members present were Mark Gherty, Susan Heuiser, Janet Lindstrom, and Mark Vanasse. Tim Witzmann was absent.

Ben Heuiser; Jason Kjeseth, St. Croix County Community Development Director; and JR Ballard (until 4:45), St. Croix County Parks Administrator were also present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – A **motion** (Gherty, Kyle Lindstrom) to adopt the agenda. **Carried** with no opposition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Opportunity for comments on subjects not on the agenda when recognized by the presiding officer.

There was no Public Comment.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES** – December 13, 2023 – This item was not considered.

**REPORTS** - from subcommittees and/or individuals about information gathered for the Board of Directors -

The various reports were not considered at this meeting.

Financial Report

Healthier Together

Lake Mallalieu Basin Trestle Park

Tourism

Others that may be available

**ITEMS for discussion and/or action** – Items 1-5 below were not considered at this meeting.

1. Standard Operating Policies
2. Goals & Objectives
3. Whether to Put Structures in Place to Allow for Quick Turnaround Grant Filing Opportunities
4. Communication Outreach Plan
5. Membership
6. Others – Kaiser had information from Lift Bridge Brewing in New Richmond about Townie Wednesday's. February 28, 2024, was the date chosen to hold another of these fund raisers.

Discussion with Kjeseth and Ballard about trail and park related issues at the County as new employees begin their tenure. The discussion was a give and take between County employees and Coalition members about issues of joint interest. Some of the items discussed were the **1)** Phase 1 TAP grant for STH 35 – the entire County Board approved almost \$400,000 on January 2, 2024, to meet the shortfall of grant funds to enable construction of Phase 1. County staff are working on grant applications to meet or exceed that amount. **2)** Ongoing plans and cost estimates for the Eckert Blufflands Park. **3)** Possible creation of a Parks and Trails Advisory Group at the County level to collaborate on the County Outdoor Recreation Plan and look 5 years ahead as the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is prepared. **4)** County Board members' discussion about fund raising and trail maintenance issues by trails organizations. **5)** Updating County Park and Trail maps. **6)** Suggestion from Coalition members that the TAP grant process be a shared one between County and municipalities, so area grants are in support of each other rather than competing against each other. **7)** The Pros and Cons of Friends Groups were discussed. **8)** Kjeseth is the contact in the Community Development Department for questions or assistance.

At the end of the discussion, Kjeseth asked the Coalition to set up a meeting with several other trails groups in addition to the Coalition where issues could be discussed together.

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7. Set next meeting date – February 14, 2024 or Other – The next meeting was set for **February 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at the Somerset Library.**

**ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD of DIRECTORS AGENDA** – Standard Operating Policies, Goals and Objectives, Whether to Put Structures in Place to Allow for Quick Turnaround Grant Filing Opportunities, Communication Outreach Plan, Membership

**ITEMS FOR NEXT COALITION AGENDA** – None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT** – A **motion** (Gherty, Kaiser) to adjourn. **Carried** with no opposition at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Heuser, Secretary