

Meeting Minutes - Friends of the Clinton River Trail Annual General Membership Meeting and Regular Board Meeting on January 31, 2023 at the Auburn Hills Community Center.

Attendance: Kristen Wiltfang, John Hensler, John Zalewski, Fred Phillips, Richard Harrison, Josh Eichenhorn, Tom Barnes, and Stan Torres (Auburn Hills Parks Supervisor), 2 guests from Auburn Hills.

Fred called the Annual General Membership meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Quick introductions were made.

Meeting minutes from the 2022 FCRT Annual General Membership meeting were accepted (John H/Richard).

Treasurer's Report – it was disclosed that FCRT is a non-profit organization and financials are held by the 501 (c)(3) Community Foundation of Greater Rochester.

Board of Directors – 3 openings and 3 nominees for 2023 (Board of Directors is set at 7 members, no term limits) exist. Fred is not running for the Board, but will remain as a Steering Committee member. Richard Harrison, Melinda Hill, and Corey Rowe were nominated (Josh/Tom) and accepted by the Board.

Any other business – none.

Fred closed the meeting at 7:21 pm (John H/Tom).

Fred called the Regular FCRT Board Meeting to order at 7:21 pm.

Meeting Minutes from November 29, 2022 were accepted (John H/Josh).

Visitor Comments – thanks were given to Auburn Hills for holding the meeting.

Treasurer's Update –John Z reported current balances and projects there are sufficient funds to cover the remaining funding required on the Pontiac Maintenance Project. Board agreed to pay up to \$250 for the annual storage locker (Josh/Richard) – Fred/John/Melinda have keys. There will be a future discussion of who will be authorized for approving disbursements for FCRT (currently Melinda, Fred, Judy Gordon). Report accepted (Josh/Richard).

Projects and Media Outreach

Pontiac Maintenance Project – Fred summarized the financials and work that needs to be completed - HAWK beacon has been installed and is operational (some adjustments to the timing will be done by Road Commission for Oakland Country), final restoration-additional grass seed at the intersections will occur in the spring, an overhead sign will be added to the HAWK (indicating the Clinton River Trail), and one stop sign at Lake Street still needs to be relocated.

Media Outreach / Digital Communication – Josh reported that he will continue to monitor Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to keep sites current. Some discussion occurred about what is appropriate to be posted or what should be removed. It was agreed that Josh will use his judgment and seek Board advice when he is unsure. Josh will bring a proposal for the website to the next meeting that minimizes

maintenance, but contains static information and links to social media (which are more active). Fred suggested we pay attention to using very good photographs on the website (maybe a contest). Richard noted that the HAWK beacon information is available online through the Pontiac Parks website, Kristen will pass out physical copies at the Pontiac Galloway Park meeting, and John H will make the document available to Josh for posting.

Strategic Plan - discussion was tabled due to time limitations.

Other Business:

Adams Crossing – Fred reported the project is on the Road Commission for Oakland County’s list of projects to bid (expected bid is expected in the spring) and the Board had a discussion about ways to advocate for this project.

Galloway Park – Kristen reported that Pontiac is looking to re-envision Galloway Lake Park (located in the NE corner of Pontiac) and is adjacent to the North Spur Trail (unimproved) – meeting at 5:30-7:00 Thursday, Feb 2 is at City Hall and looking for public feedback.

Michigan Trails Magazine – John H led the discussion on the Michigan Trails Magazine advertisement for 2023 (\$1544 per ½ page = \$257.33 per city and FCRT). Getting an ad gives about 60 copies of the magazine to each city. The Board agreed that John will go forward with the ad and contact each city to update the content. Fred noted that cities at the last FCRT Alliance meeting were interested. Josh/Fred proposed that \$1625 be allocated for the ad - accepted.

Opdyke Crossing – Fred led the discussion on a crossing between Auburn Hills and the Pontiac “North Spur”

Motion to Adjourn – Richard/Josh - the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next regular FCRT Board meeting will be held February 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm.