

Meeting Minutes April 25, 2023 – Friends of the Clinton River Trail, Auburn Hills Community Center.

Present: John Hensler, Kristen Wiltfang, Josh Eichenhorn, Tom Yazbek, Richard Harrison, Fred Phillips, Melinda Hill, Tom Barnes, John Zelewski

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Melinda.

Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2023 – accepted (Josh, Richard).

Visitor Comments - none

Treasurer's Report – John Z reported on the status of the financials and all is in good order. Discussion occurred on the cost of the post office box – John going to do more investigation. Melinda asked that board to think about “next projects” which need to be funded and at what level. Report accepted.

## **Projects**

Pontiac Phase I – Kristen reported the project will be completed in the near future.

National Trails Days - Table to Table Ride (Saturday June 3) – John H. reported that event will be opened for registration in the coming weeks (target 150 people). John wanted to make sure that if people want to continue riding through to Pontiac there is a motivation for them (e.g. getting a food truck at the Pontiac Senior Center) – Richard to investigate. FCRT is planning on supporting the ride and details will be decided at the next Board Meeting.

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Clinton River Trail – Melinda suggested a sub-committee be formed to investigate the idea including representatives from each city. Several ideas were brought up including having a party, multiple-city celebrations, and to get others involved (e.g. starting a new position of trail watchers, getting younger people involved who use the trail, etc.). More detailed discussions to occur at the May meeting.

Media Outreach –

- Website - Josh is making good progress and plans on giving an overview of his proposal in May to the FCRT Board.
- Social Media support is occurring – Josh is monitoring and will be actively engaging.
- City Council presentations – Josh will be working on a presentation with Melinda and Kristen to be used in the coming months.
- E-newsletter content – Fred is looking for content (Pontiac wrap-up, HAWK, RRFB, re-surfacing of Auburn Hills, courteous behavior, MALT, Michigander, etc. ) – Richard suggested board members send Fred content (photo and a paragraph).

Other Business / Updates

- CRT Alliance meeting recap – Fred captured some high points – Pontiac is adding RRFB and HAWK signals; Rochester is adding 4 RRFBs; Rochester Hills is planning resurfacing for the trail in 2025, is using trail counters to understand usage, and adding a ranger for the parks that will include the CRT; Auburn Hills has fixed the bike pump at the Opdyke trailhead, a new senior person in charge of parks has been established, there is construction in downtown that may impact the trail temporarily, and some trail crossing improvements are being looked at

- Mid-block Crossing at Adams / Letica Trailhead – Melinda brought this to the attention of Rochester Hills leadership and it appears the city is still interested in pursuing this project
- Sylvan Lake Improvements – Kristen reported there will be surface improvements and vegetation management on the trail; also, it was noted that the West Bloomfield Trail will be adding 2 HAWKS on Orchard Lake Road (#2 and #3)
- Galloway Lake Park – Kristen indicated plans had been developed and the topic was on the May 16 Pontiac City Council meeting including a connection to the North Spur
- Michigander – will be based in Ann Arbor and using a spoke riding system including going to Stoney Creek for an overnight on June 26 - at this time FCRT are not involved in this event
- Trail Beacon Education / Brochure – Kristen has been discussing the idea with several government agencies, good FCRT discussion on signage occurred, and Kristen indicated she is creating ideas and a strategy for improving road crossing understanding for drivers and trail users
- DIA Trail Art – Richard and John H indicated that the DIA project is being pursued for 2024 and applications are due in October – an information packet will be distributed to all cities in the future
- Adams Road between University and Hamlin – there is a study underway that includes non-vehicle travel recommendations
- Rails to Trails – FCRT has been a member for many years - the Board decided to re-join (Josh, John H) – John Z to facilitate

New Business:

- Document retention for FCRT – please think about this (e.g. Pontiac Project, Minutes, etc) – a discussion will be held in the future
- John H brought in the 2023 Michigan Trails magazine – each city gets copies for distribution and for FCRT’s copies the board is thinking of ideas for distribution
- Richard indicated that 2 of 5 trees that were planted on the Pontiac portion of the trail may have died – he is going to talk to the nursery that provided the trees for recommendations
- Richard indicated that Detroit is giving a \$250 reward to people whose tips lead to the confiscation of illegal ATVs and there was some discussion about illegal use of the CRT by powered vehicles

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm (John Z, Richard).

Submitted by Tom Barnes