

Meeting Minutes June 27, 2023 – Friends of the Clinton River Trail, Auburn Hills Community Center.

Present: John Hensler, Kristen Wiltfang, Richard Harrison, Fred Phillips, Corey Rowe, Tom Barnes, John Zalewski, Josh Eichenhorn

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

Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2023 – accepted (John H, John Z).

Visitor Comments – none

Announcements – It was noted that on June 27 Pontiac had received a federal RAISE Grant and Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation Grant to fund the Pike Street Clinton River Trail Project – this is great news for the citizens of Pontiac and all trail users. This funding will upgrade utilities, reconstruct the roadway, add a bike and pedestrian path along Pike Street and improve the southern segment of the former railroad. This work will complete the Clinton River Trail fully in Pontiac and connect the existing trail to the downtown, surrounding neighborhoods and local businesses.

Funding is needed for a future project to design and construct the segment of trail from approx. 400 feet south of M-59 north to Joslyn Road and link to Galloway Lake Park, neighborhoods, and schools.

Treasurer's Report – John Z reported the status of the financials and all is in good order. Report accepted.

Projects

Pontiac Phase I – Fred reported that the project is near completion and the final payment is outstanding to the prime contractor-Anglin Civil and also to the construction engineer-Nowak & Fraus.

National Trails Day - Table to Table Ride (Saturday June 3) – John H reported the Table-to-Table ride was very successful. Discussion occurred on how to promote and entice riders at future events to explore the trail further east. It was noted that all Orchard Lake Road trail crossings will be controlled by either a traffic signal or HAWK beacon in the near future.

20th Anniversary Celebration of the Clinton River Trail – The Board discussed ideas for a celebration in 2024 including a “Fall Classic” trail ride. Josh asked the Board to think about this and discuss via email with a target to decide in the next 2 months if we are going to have an event.

DIA Trail Art in 2024 – Richard gave an update and should be receiving information for the 2024 program this summer – he will share with the Board.

Media Outreach

- Social Media – Josh indicated that he had updated social media
- E-newsletter content – Fred created a draft E-newsletter and has shared it with the Board, it will be published in the near future and shared with all FCRT members and also used on social media
- Website – the host site will be moved in the near future (Josh to coordinate with John H)
- City Council Presentation – will utilize available information and be created in the near future

Other Business / Updates

- Mid-block Crossing at Adams / Letica Trailhead – no new information
- Sylvan Lake Improvements – no new information
- E-bike Discussion – the Board had a general discussion on e-bikes, Kristen noted there was a recent webinar “Slow & Say Hello” discussing how to improve communications between all trail users
- Trail Beacons: HAWK and RRFB Information (brochure, video, social media posts, etc.) – no new information
- Document Retention – discussion occurred on what is necessary or what is wanted, an idea is that a policy should be created and then it should be followed, no conclusions.

New Business:

- Richard noted that Pontiac has ordered replacements for 2 air pumps that are not working at the entrance of Beaudette Park and the Pontiac Public Library
- Richard reported that crossing at Woodward and South Blvd will complete in the near future

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm (Josh, John H).

Submitted by Tom Barnes