

Meeting Minutes – Regular Board Meeting February 27, 2024 – Friends of the Clinton River Trail, Auburn Hills Community Center.

Present: Melinda Hill, John Zalewski, John Hensler, Thomas Yazbeck, Fred Phillips, Josh Eichenhorn, Corey Rowe, Steve Beguin (Guest), Michael Kazmierski (Guest), Gabe McCoy (Guest)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Melinda.

Minutes of January 23, 2023 – Approved (Fred P, John H).

Visitor Comments

Steve Beguin is a resident of the City of Rochester and a user of the Clinton River Trail as well as the Paint Creek Trail and surrounding multi-use pathways.

Michael Kazmierski is a resident of downtown Auburn Hills and a trail user interested in working with FRCT on event planning and city festival involvement.

Gabe McCoy is a resident of Rochester Hills and a trail user interested in getting involved with FCRT, specifically with developments in Pontiac.

Treasurer's Report – John Z reported the status of the financials and recent disbursements. Discussion of our subscription to and presence within Michigan Trails Magazine, which is distributed to bicycle shops and advocacy groups around the state. Also discussed a potential donation to the Michigan Greenways and Trails Alliance (MGTA), FCRT's most recent having been in 2021. Brief discussion of the fiscal structure of FCRT, highlighting the annual report filed alongside forms filed by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester, which acts as the legal fiduciary for FCRT. Report accepted.

Projects / Initiatives

20th Anniversary Celebration of the Clinton River Trail – Event will be at Goldner-Walsh on May 22. Continued discussion of printing additional 20th Anniversary handout and yard signs along the trail. John H can produce the yard signs. Melinda H notes that Done Right Signs in Pontiac is a potential alternative to VistaPrint for producing yard signs should one be needed. John H should also check with Richard H for possible source. Yard signs and kiosk fliers should be printed and ready by April. \$1,000 has been approved for promotional expenses. Josh E will promote the event on FCRT social channels closer to the date.

City Council Presentations - FCRT / City Presentations - confirmed for Tuesday, March 12 at 6 pm for Pontiac, Wednesday, March 13 at 7:30 pm for Sylvan Lake, and Monday, March 18 at 7:00 pm for City of Rochester Hills (rescheduled from March 4).

National Trails Day (June 1) - Auburn Hills is planning an NTD even, and Melinda H will meet with Mayor Marzolf, City Manager Tom Tanghe, and Stephanie Carroll, Manager of Business Development and Community Relations, on March 8 at 11 am to discuss FCRT involvement. Michael K noted that this is a first-time event for Auburn Hills, and FCRT may consider having a presence at other summer and fall events in the area such as Art and Apples in Rochester. FCRT discussed having a booth 11am to 1pm at MALT Table to Table event on NTD, and hopefully can have a presence at both the Auburn Hills CRT and MALT NTD events.

Rochester Hills Bike to Brew – June 15, further details to come. Event will start at Bloomer Park and end at Griffin Claw Clubhouse

CRT Projects & Initiatives to Monitor

- Ten active projects are in development. Fred P provided an update on each as per the attached spreadsheet.
- Meadow Drive Extension: \$7.3M project, will pave the east-west portion of the North Spur Trail immediately west of Opdyke. The north-south portion of the railbed will be addressed using some of the same funding and will tie-in separately as part of the Pike Street Connector project.
- Tom Y noted an upcoming redevelopment in Rochester Hills on the east side of Adams Rd slightly northeast of Forester Drive in Auburn Hills, south of the Leach Road Trailhead. FCRT will follow this project and the potential for sidewalk construction in the area.
- Melinda H noted that nine art pieces will be installed along the trail as part of the DIA's Inside Out program. Pontiac will have one at Orchard Lake Road Crossing #5.
- The board will investigate federal law as it pertains to mandatory clearing of paved multi-use trails of snow in the winter.

Website and Social Media – Josh E launched the new website and will publish a 20-year Anniversary page. Melinda H notes that the board used to send out monthly newsletters to members; Josh E will manage this from Squarespace once the Mailchimp and Google Drive mailing lists are merged.

New / Old Business

- Document retention – Board members requested additional time to review information provided by Fred P. Discussion tabled for next meeting.
- Election of Officers: Discussion tabled for next meeting.
- Fred P and Tom Y asked the board to consider short-term and long-term projects FRCT should target and promote prior to the next meeting, and how the board might appeal for funds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm (Tom Y, John H).

Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 26th, 7:00pm

Submitted by Corey Rowe