

Meeting Minutes – Regular Board Meeting March 26, 2024 – Friends of the Clinton River Trail, Auburn Hills Community Center.

Present: Josh Eichenhorn, John Zalewski, Richard Harrison, Melinda Hill, John Hensler, Fred Phillips, Tom Barnes, Gabe McCoy, Michael Kazmierski, Alex Hawkins (hawkia01@gmail.com), Corey Rowe (by phone)

Meeting called to order at 7:01 by Melinda

Minutes of February 27, 2024 – accepted (Josh, John H).

Visitor Comments – Alex Hawkins – “I like the trails and am from Rochester Hills”. Melinda and Fred talked through the high-level charter and operation of the Friends of the Clinton River Trail group.

Treasurer’s Report – John Z reported the status of the financials. John indicated we supported Rails to Trails last year. It was agreed to give RTT \$75 in 2024 (Josh, Gabe) and also support MTGA for \$100 for 2024 (Josh, Tom). John also talked through disbursements and asked to discuss the financials for the 20th anniversary (later in agenda). Report accepted.

Projects / Initiatives

20th Anniversary Celebration of the Clinton River Trail – event will be at Goldner-Walsh on May 22. John H has 20 lawn signs to promote the 20th Anniversary – Josh and Richard will put 10 signs along the trail next week. Signs will be put in the kiosks as well (Fred has keys). At this time, about \$850 has been spent of the \$1000 allocated for the event. The board supports a cake, snacks and drinks be part of the celebration and the budget will be updated to \$1800 (Josh, John H). Maps and decorations will be part of the event.

City Council Presentations - FCRT / City discussions – discussion with Sylvan Lake at 7 pm on April 3 (Josh lead). Other city presentations were already made and well received.

National Trails Day – Auburn Hills will have an event from 2 p –4 pm on June 1 to celebrate and FCRT will put a tent up (Michael to participate in Auburn Hills). Also, the MALT Table to Table Event will held on the same day (Airline Trail, WB, FCRT) – the FCRT tent will be put up 11-1 near the Sylvan Table. Board members will volunteer to work the tents – Gabe, Josh, Tom voiced interest.

Summer Festival Auburn Hills – FCRT was asked to have a table to support the event on Friday June 21 – the board supports supporting the event, details to follow.

Rochester Hills 20th Anniversary June 15 – Bike to Brew being held (Bloomer Park to Griffinn Claw) and details will be shared in the future. FCRT was asked to help and the board supports.

Document Retention Policy – tabled until next meeting

CRT Projects & Initiatives to Monitor – Fred gave an update – key updates include:

- a. Bagley/Golf drive has started (trail to be put in from Orchard Lake to South Blvd on the west side of Bagley), Meadow Drive/CRT Extension design and planning is underway (Opdyke to Michigan Avenue – about M59), Pike Street Corridor has high level plans and will basically connect the Meadow Drive extension to the Bagley Road Clinton River crossing. Timing for completion is TBD, but likely 2024-2025.

- b. The DIA Inside/Out Trail will be installed in early May and be along the CRT in every city that owns the trail.
- c. The mid-block crossing at Adams Road / Trailhead has begun work – great advocacy by Tom Yazbeck, Corey, and especially Melinda.

Media Outreach

- Website and social media – Josh has updated the new Website and social media support is ramping up. A church in Bloomfield Township has asked FCRT to support Earth Day (April 22) and Josh has indicated he will support.

New / Old Business

- Auburn Hills tree trimming and trail closing will occur in the near future
- John H will layout new cards for board members who want them – future discussion will occur
- Rich would like to put announcements for the the 20th anniversary celebration in several local magazines – Josh will support
- Election of FCRT officers – discussion occurred - 7 board members are in place and 4 officers were proposed (Josh, John H): Melinda as President, Josh as Vice-President, John Z as Treasurer, and Tom B as secretary – passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm (Rich, Josh).

Next Meeting – Tuesday April 30, 2024

Submitted by Tom Barnes