

Friends of the Blue Star Trail

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 25, 2018

PRESENT: John Adams, Clark Carmichael, Richard Donovan, Jack Eisinger, Dan Keller, Laura Jager, Jeanne VanZoeren, Sunny Hill

ABSENT: John Ludlow

1. **Call to Order** — John called the meeting to order at 4:05.
2. **Review and approval of Minutes**—Clark moved, Laura seconded, and the minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurer's Report** — Jack reviewed the balance sheet and P&L, which showed little change. Harvest Ride showed an expected net profit of approximately \$17,000.
4. **Saugatuck City Study Update** — John reported that he had spoken with Jon Moxey of F&V this week, who explained that F&V is going to present options, not recommendations, for routing the trail through the City of Saugatuck. F&V likely will recommend a route along the west side, maintaining three lanes across the bridge, and a traffic light at Lake St. Some retaining wall may be necessary but it likely won't be necessary to move the City palette sign much if at all. Two meetings are scheduled with stakeholders for Nov. 8 for F&V to present its preliminary options. (Bill LeFevere, Douglas City Manager, is unable to attend the 4:30 Council workshop.)
5. **Community Outreach Update** — the Board discussed strategy for achieving approval from the Saugatuck City Council following presentation of options by the engineering firm. It was suggested that we invite to the Nov. 8 stakeholders meeting the 12 or so City residents who have agreed to serve as “ambassadors.” We should also reach out to others in the City who are influential, either for the stakeholders meeting and/or the public hearing to be held by the Council after the final report is issued by F&V.
6. **Update re SH connection** — John, Jeanne and Laura related the substance of additional conversations they have had with the South Haven manager about his ideas for connecting to existing trails there. It was decided to schedule a meeting with him to obtain further information.
7. **Annual campaign** — Laura discussed several ideas for the annual campaign letter, but noted that we would prefer to include information about the status of discussions with the City. The Board is inclined to send a direct mailing (rather than an email) to riders from the Harvest Ride, 65% of whom are new this year. Clark will provide the Board with a summary of the Harvest Ride survey results.

- 8. Retention of Support Person - update** — Clark gave an update on the analysis of the need to hire a person who can perform various tasks related to database management and social media. A motion was made and passed to approve continued efforts to identify a suitable candidate in line with Clark's "Job Description & Compensation" handout, with the understanding that the Board will need to approve any contract with such person, who will be an independent contractor.
- 9. Grants Update** — Jeanne reported that the plans for the bridge at Exit 36 of US Route 196 are finally under review by FEDWA, whose approval is one of two conditions required for MDOT approval, the other being a letter of support from Saugatuck City. She also noted plans to approach a foundation in Lansing and several others. John noted that he and Laura are meeting on Friday with representatives of the Herman Miller foundation.
- 10. Hurley Stewart Review Meeting** — John reported on a recent meeting by a committee of the Board with Hurley Stewart. The committee recommends that we continue to work with HS, though both parties agreed to refine their procedures for future sections of the Trail.
- 11. Next meeting date:** November 15, 2018 4:00 PM @ Casco Township Hall
- 12. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Donovan

Richard E. Donovan, Secretary

