

**Friends of the Blue Star Trail**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**MAY 17, 2018**

PRESENT: John Adams, Clark Carmichael, Jack Eisinger, Sunny Hill, Frank Cunningham, Dan Keller, Jeanne Van Zoeren, Richard Donovan

ABSENT: John Ludlow

ALSO PRESENT: Ellen Donovan (Item 11)

1. **Call to Order.** John Adams called the meeting to order. He then reported that Rosie Burke has submitted her resignation from the Board.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Clark Carmichael moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting of the Board, as corrected, Frank Cunningham seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.
3. **Motion to Add Director.** John Adams moved to add Richard Donovan as a member of the Board and to elect him as Secretary. Clark Carmichael seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Jack Eisinger presented the current P&L and balance sheet. He noted that while we normally try to limit the cash in the Chemical Bank account to less than \$10,000, he currently has more than that in the account in anticipation of expenses for the Toast party.

Jack requested that the Board modify its policy to require Board approval of any payments in excess of \$500 in the case of events such as the Toast party and the Harvest Ride where the Board has already approved a detailed budget for the event. He noted that it is often necessary to write checks for payment to vendors on or near the day of such events. After discussion, Dan Keller seconded Jack's motion and the Board all voted to approve the modification of the policy.

5. **City of Saugatuck.** John Adams reported that he had received a letter from the City of Saugatuck inviting the Friends to come to the May 29 Council meeting (7:00 pm) to discuss changes in the relevant part of the plan for the Trail and to answer questions. John said that he intends to speak with Mayor Trester beforehand to confirm that the Council will allow time for a meaningful discussion. The Board agreed that John should accept the invitation under such terms.
6. **Construction Updates.** John Adams reported that the first section of the Trail has been completed following some final tasks by the contractor. John also reported, however, that certain shortcomings with the engineer had been

reported by the contractor. John will lead a small group of Board members to meet with the engineer to seek to resolve these issues going forward.

- 7. Toast** — Clark Carmichael reported that there are only 10 tickets left of 170 (150 was the goal), approximately 28 of which are comps. The Board again thanked the Committee for its hard work.

Clark then reported that the volunteer auctioneer, Kathy Korse, has requested permission to solicit at the Toast event contributions to two local charities that she supports. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that, while it is supportive of the two charities in question, it would not be appropriate for Ms Korse to mention them to our guests or to distribute flyers about them. The Board asked Laura Jager to convey its decision to Ms Korse.

- 8. Trail Celebration on May 20.** Dan Keller reviewed highlights of this rain or shine event, chaired by Ann Horner. He noted that the Saugatuck Christian Reformed Church has been very helpful in lending their facilities and equipment.
- 9. Grants Update.** Jeanne Van Zoeren reported that the MDOT TAP program Evaluation Committee suggested a second sidewalk for pedestrians and is drafting a plan for same, on Cemetery Rd. near the end of Holland St. Saugatuck Township will seek a resolution approving this addition at its next meeting for a cost to the Township of an additional \$27,000. John Adams noted that MDOT is in effect reopening our grant application, which allows us to add the cost of the sidewalk, but our financial contribution will not increase.
- 10. Trail section from Old Allegan Rd. to Maple St.** Jeanne Van Zoren reported that she has had several recent conversations with Aaron Sheridan, Township Manager, about construction of this small stretch of the Trail. Mr. Sheridan very much wants to proceed with it, and feels it will help the nearby businesses. John Adams pointed out that it will require an investment of approximately \$20-30,000 of Friends' funds, and that we do not know what plans the City of Saugatuck will ever approve for the connecting segment. After extensive discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to continue with the existing plans to build this section.
- 11. Fundraising.** Laura Jager led a lengthy discussion of possible fundraising activities, beginning with the observation that we are now at stage where grants will require us to put up substantial funds, including \$96,000 by 10/18. Among other things, we discussed the need to secure one or more major corporate sponsors, the nature of our fundraising messaging, and the possibility of offering sections of the Trail for sale to individual sponsors. Laura and Ellen Donovan will be drafting a fundraising plan for the Board to consider.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Donovan, Secretary