

Hancock Trails Club Board Meeting
April 25, 2024
Minutes

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, Mark Klein, Nate Laakonen, Murphy Mallow, and Keith Meyers Guest: Eric Watkins

Mark Roberts convened the meeting with Jay's initial absence at 7:04 p.m.

Agenda: John added city council budget work session as part of the Treasurer's Report

Minutes: John clarified on the second page under trail updates to add "boardwalk barrier" to posts and noted that they are now up. Wayne moved approval of the minutes as amended. John provided a second to the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

Groomers Report: No groomers were present. Nate noted that there have been twenty-five volunteers helping out with the spring trail clean up that is now underway. Mark Roberts commented that rocks and other bad spots should be flagged or painted so we know where to go. Eric asked if this includes muddy spots, and it does. John noted a Google Doc set up by Dean Woodbeck where projects can be added and asked that we include those being handled during the clean up so they can be noted as completed.

Treasurer's Report: John noted the combined accounts total \$167,160 with \$46,000 in the money market account before the land purchase. John noted a CD that is maturing on June 2nd that could be tapped. John reported that we are down 28% from last year on revenue. There were no significant expenses in the current period. John noted a meeting with John Erickson and that they have culverts the city is planning to throw out that we should look at. Jay suggested 8" and greater with 10" to 12" being better noting that John should see what looks useful. John noted a \$250 donation from the Ski Tigers and \$300 from the Keweenaw Community Foundation's Cross Country Ski Fund for the Barnelopet. The Snow Duro revenue is still in our account. Jason moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Nate provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

John then discussed the Council's Budget session where he noted that Mary Babcock is interested in changing the mechanics of the relationship with the club to make it more transparent. John will be authorized to approve invoices out of an amount to be established by the city (for example, \$35,000) to provide better documentation. A new building is in their plan, but there is no money behind it with no funding requested for this year. John also noted a conversation with council member Whitney Warstler who is supportive of the trails but wants to see this change. Bonuses were also discussed.

Annual Meeting: Scheduled for May 21st at 6 p.m. at the Orpheum. Everything is set and the Club will buy pizza.

Electronic Voting: John will handle so this will take place ten days before the meeting. John will get this out to the membership next week. Voting eligibility will be based on sales and memberships as of March 15th. We will only be voting for directors. An explainer about the need for 10% of the membership would be helpful.

Board Nominees: These include Murphy Mallow, Keith Meyers, Wayne Stordahl, and Eric Watkins. We can take nominations at the annual meeting. John noted that if we do not have 10% at the meeting, we cannot take nominations from the floor.

Strategic Trail Plan: John discussed this with the city and the possibility of Rock Solid. The city does not have the funding for it. Discussion centered on the importance of involvement from all stakeholders including the city, townships, and the Wuebbens.

Groomers Bonus: John noted that we have a distribution, but that nothing has been done yet. We need to talk with Mary about Tyler and whether he gets one.

Equipment Garage: The trolley barn was discussed. There is a lot of space in the basement, and it would work if we needed it, but DPW will accommodate us. John noted that the trolley barn would cost \$800/month to heat and is a lot more space than we need. Mark Klein's impression was that DPW will accommodate us. John Erickson wants to build us a building per John Pekkala. Nate asked if we should have a lease with DPW. Jay noted that Mary says no for insurance reasons. Jay discussed the possibility of a hoop building, but it is at the bottom of the list. We will keep interacting with John Erickson and Mary on this. Jay said to tell Gitzen's no at this point.

Trail 17 Bridge: We have applied for grants. Mark Roberts came up with an estimate of \$40,000. John asked for \$17,000 from Visit Keweenaw and \$2,500 from the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation. We will know about these in May. For the boardwalk, Mark copied the design from the meadow, but we should have an engineer review it. The 16-foot span should be re-checked. It is unknown if the culverts need engineering approval. John noted that one of the two swamp mats provided by the Wuebbens is still in place.

Strategic Vision: Nate handed out printed copies and reviewed it with the board. Nate asked for suggestions on additional projects. Wayne brought up trail smoothing. Mark Roberts noted it on page two. Wayne brought up the gravel pit expansion. Mark Roberts noted that we need to know how far they are going to go. Wayne noted the DNR markings. Wayne noted the possibility of turning the Grill House Trail into a designated snowshoe trail. A merchandise store was discussed as not necessarily a way to make money but would get our name out there. Murphy will be talking to Level Up about an online store and this would involve a percentage of the profits. Keith acknowledged the excellent job Nate did with the document and pointed out how important this will be as we work with funders in the future on grant requests. Jay charged everyone with looking it over and getting suggestions to Nate.

Trail Updates: We need to take down the hay bale fence. Wayne suggested using the hay for the bridge construction. John mentioned an email he received from Blair Orr about the re-opening of

the trail into the gorge downstream from Railroad Ravine. Jay indicated that he sent Ken Hodges a note after his wife's passing.

Hancock Trails Club Press Release: Dean said he sent it out, but it never got printed. Nate will send it to Jay and have Dean add to it.

Signage Committee: We definitely need signs to control walking on trails in the winter. Swedetown's are prominent and it gets enforced. We need to give walkers a place to go. John will work on signs over the summer.

Budget: Nothing

Stump Grinder: Nate says Colin had to order parts. We will test it and will see if we want it. Colin will be asking for \$1,000.

Closed Session: Started at 9:11 p.m. and out at 9:16 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.