

**MEETING MINUTES OF
PRAIRIE TRAILS CLUB INC.**

**North Judson-Wayne Township Public Library
208 Keller Avenue
North Judson, Indiana**

June 21, 2018

MEMBERS

**Kenneth Bailey
Diane Blais
Russell Blais
Paul Byer
Linda Byer
Bruce Fingerhut
Kathy Lucas
Steve Lucas
Brian McMillin
Anita McMillin
Rhonda Milner
Donna Osborne
Sharon Smead
Peggy Stalbrink
Rich Stalbrink**

Bob Albert

Call to Order by President

Bruce Fingerhut, President, called to order a membership meeting of the Prairie Trails Club (“PTC”) at 6:10 p.m., CDT (7:10 p.m., EDT) on June 21, 2018 in the North Judson-Wayne Township Public Library, North Judson, Indiana. He then welcomed new member Diane Blais.

Approval of May 24, 2018 Minutes

Rhonda Milner moved to approve the May 24, 2018 minutes without amendment. Sharon Smead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Final Preparations for Work Day with Marshall County Horse Association

Sharon said depending on the weather, the joint work day with the Marshall County Horse Association and the PTC was set on Saturday to begin at the intersection of the Erie Trail and County Road 300 East. Starting time was 9:00 a.m., CDT. Paul Byer would bring water for volunteers that had been donated but not used for the cool cloudy 5K Color Walk Run. He also agreed to bring heavy equipment to assist with removing large honeylocusts and autumn olives from the horse trail. Kathy Lucas said donated water bottles not used during the work day would be made available to trail users on hot days or at a PTC booth during the Bass Lake Festival.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy circulated among the members a written copy of the Treasurer's Report. Included was the following summary:

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------|
| 1) First Farmers Bank & Trust | | |
| Balance forward from 4/26/18 | | \$19,909.32 |
| 5/25/18 Deposit <i>(Color Run Receipts)</i> | 350.00 | |
| 5/30/18 Deposit <i>(Color Run Receipts)</i> | 470.00 | |
| 5/31/18 Deposit <i>(Color Run Receipts)</i> | 350.00 | |
| 5/31/18 Payment to Heinold & Feller <i>(Purchase of mower, check #1006)</i> | (5,487.00) | |
| 6/5/18 Payment to The Market newspaper <i>(Two ads for Color Run)</i> | (79.36) | |
| 6/5/18 Deposit <i>(Color Run Receipts)</i> | 1,142.00 | |
| 6/11/18 Deposit <i>(Transfer from NICF of Luminous Signage Grants #1 and #2)</i> | 6,000.00 | |
| 6/11/18 Payment to Heinold & Feller <i>(Mower blade)</i> | (91.24) | |
| 6/12/18 Deposit <i>(Bike Raffle)</i> | 595.00 | |
| 6/12/18 Reimbursement to K. Lucas <i>(For payment on her personal credit card to Color Blaze)</i> | (1,400.00) | |
| 6/13/18 Payment to The Leader Newspaper | (60.00) | |

(Quarter page color ad for Color Run)

6/19/18 Deposit **2,480.00**
(Color Run Sponsors 1,450.00
Bike Raffle 773.00
ERIE TRAIL Shirts 257.00
2,480.00)

6/20/18 Transfer from PayPal **38.54**
(Two Color Run applications minus PayPal service fee)

6/20/18 Payment to OTES **(600.00)**
(ADT/USBR35 signs at 800 less 200 donation)

Ending FFBT balance as of 5/24/18 **\$23,757.26**

2) Northern Indiana Community Foundation (NICF) **3,905.58**
(Reduced by 6,000 transfer of Luminous Fund Grants to FFBT)

TOTAL OF TWO ACCOUNTS **\$27,662.84**

Recap

The balance of 5/24/18 was \$29,805.14. The PTC has \$2,142.30 less than last month, primarily due to the purchase of mower shown on 5/31/18. The PTC needs to pay the Starke County Highway Department and TCS for signage once invoices are received.

Net Proceeds of Fundraising Efforts to Date

Color Run *\$2,052.18*
Bike Raffle *1,368.00*
ERIE TRAIL shirts *257.00*
\$3,677.18

Linda Byer moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Donna Osborne said there was a clerical error regarding bike raffle proceeds, and the error has been corrected. Sharon seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report with the error corrected. The motion carried.

Report of Restricted and Unrestricted Use Funds in PTC Treasury

Kathy distributed printed copies of a spreadsheet for “PTC Restricted/Unrestricted Funds”. The spreadsheet reported in substance:

| Restricted Grants/Donations | Orig. Amt. | Expended | Remaining |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Luminous Fund Grant 1</i> | <i>S13 Spur Signage</i> | <i>1,000</i> | <i>1,000</i> |
| <i>Luminous Fund Grant 2</i> | <i>S13 Spur Signage+</i> | <i>5,000</i> | <i>5,000</i> |
| <i>Hardesty Memorial Grant</i> | <i>Wayfinding & Int. Sign.</i> | <i>12,000</i> | <i>(600)</i> |
| <i>Wine Timers Donation</i> | <i>K. Wittig Mem. Bench</i> | <i>350</i> | <i>350</i> |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>K&S Donation</i> | <i>K. Wittig Mem. Supp.</i> | <i>100</i> | <i>100</i> |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | | <i>\$18,450</i> | <i>\$17,850</i> |

| Unrestricted Grants/Donations | | Orig. Amt. | Expended | Remaining |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Greenways Foundation Grant to K. Lucas</i> | <i>501(c)(3) application</i> | <i>275</i> | | <i>275</i> |
| <i>NICF The Hive Grant from Presentation</i> | <i>Timed but unrestricted</i> | <i>750</i> | <i>(750)**</i> | <i>00</i> |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | | <i>\$1,025</i> | | <i>\$275</i> |

* *K. Lucas released original restriction*

** *Applied toward purchase of 2018 Color Run packets*

| Summary of Accounts | Total | Restricted | Unrestricted |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <i>First Farmers Bank & Trust (FFBT)</i> | <i>23,757.26</i> | <i>17,850.00</i> | <i>5,907.26</i> |
| <i>Northern Ind. Community Foundation (NICF)</i> | <i>3,905.58</i> | | <i>3,905.58</i> |
| PTC TOTALS | \$27,662.84 | \$17,850.00 | \$9,812.84 |

Peggy Stalbrink moved to approve the summary and Anita McMillin seconded the motion. On a voice vote the motion carried.

Update on Communications with First Responders at Erie Trail

As anticipated in the May meeting, Rich Stalbrink and Rhonda Milner wrote to agency representatives of law enforcement, fire fighters and emergency management services with overtures to help coordinate responses to emergencies on the Erie Trail. Rich also spoke by telephone with leadership among these first responders. He said feedback was universally positive. “We will continue to talk with Sheriff Bill Dulin who will spearhead” a team approach. The effort is likely to help with pinpointing the locations along the trail of any needed emergency services and how best to have emergency vehicles access those locations. Additional reports will follow as communications progress.

BIC Committee Signage Update

Steve reported on signage initiatives for the Erie Trail and connectors. He said new ERIE TRAIL signs have been acquired from Traffic Control Specialists in Knox, but the PTC has not yet received a formal billing. On June 5 at the request of Starke County Highway Superintendent, Rik Ritzler, the Starke County Commissioners gave approval for the Highway Department to place yellow-and-black signs on connectors without cost to the PTC. Rhonda spoke as PTC Vice President in support of the request and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Steve brought signs approved for American Discovery Trail and US Bike Route 35 wayfinding through North Judson. A proof depicting a typical sign follows:



OTES of North Judson helped design and then manufactured aluminum signs with a white background and curved corners. The Town intends to place them and to provide at least some of the sign posts without cost to the PTC. Primary funding was provided by the Hardesty Foundation. As a donation, OTES reduced the project cost from \$800 to \$600.

Maintenance Committee Update

The membership had an open and thorough discussion of priorities for the application of unrestricted use funds for asphalt pavement maintenance and repair. Donna and Kenny Bailey generously donated a bicycle for what became a successful PTC raffle. Bruce expressed his appreciation for the donation and added several members volunteered their personal efforts to the raffle, making it ultimately a PTC project. Russ Blais spoke to the importance of trail maintenance. Donna said her “first choice was picnic tables” on the premise that donors have expressed to her that preference. Steve reflected that during the May meeting, roughly half of the PTC’s unrestricted use funds were expended to purchase a new mower. In a motion approved by the PTC, the purchase was conditioned on the next priority being to deal with three sites identified by members as pavement needs.

Bruce moved that the PTC authorize up to \$9,600 to pave bad spots west of Range Road to County Road 100 West contingent upon concurrence by the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. Donna seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5K Color Walk/Run (National Trails Day) and Mint Festival

The PTC held a successful 5K Color Walk/Run on June 5 with outstanding volunteer and commercial sponsorship. Below is an image taken by Peggy Bohac of participants on Main Street and turning right onto the Erie Trail:



On Fathers Day Weekend PTC members also served at a booth for the North Judson Mint Festival.

Report of June 11 PTC Board of Directors Meeting

Bruce outlined a meeting of the PTC's Board of Directors held at Bass Lake on June 11. Members attending were Donna, Sharon, Carolla Heilstadt, Steve and he. Four members are needed for a quorum. With five members present a quorum was recognized. Bruce was elected Board President, Steve Vice President, and Carolla Secretary. Kathy serves as Treasurer for the PTC Membership and the Board but is not a voting member of the Board. Carolla has already circulated draft minutes to Board members, and these will be shared with the membership following approval.

Report of June 14 Greenways Foundation Meeting

Russ, Diane, Brian, Anita, Steve and Kathleen were guests of Tabitha Balzer at the annual Greenways Foundation meeting in Carmel. The Greenways Foundation is a charitable trust working to promote the growth, enhancement and use of Indiana greenways. Tabitha is a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Because the Foundation awarded a grant in support of the PTC's effort to obtain 501(c)(3) status, our organization was recognized briefly during the meeting.

During the meeting the Eppley Institute at Indiana University issued the Summary Report of the *2017 Indiana Trails Study*. Kathy distributed an abstract of the report during the PTC meeting. Russ reflected on the Eppley Institute findings that priority needs are for funding to support safety and maintenance. Early survey results show biking (52%) is the most popular activity, with walking (29%) and running or jogging (19%) in the top three. These results are a shift from a 2001 Eppley study which found walking was the preferred activity of users. Sharon noted the report distributed at the PTC meeting indicates the biggest concerns trail users have relating to trails are for trail maintenance and access to facilities such as restrooms and water fountains.

Scheduling Another Work Day

Another work day was scheduled for October 16, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., CDT (10:00 a.m., EDT) east of the intersection of the Erie Trail and County Road 300 East.

Scheduling Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for the North Judson-Wayne Township Public Library on July 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., CDT (7:00 p.m., EDT).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm, CDT (9:05 pm, EDT).