

# **Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting Prairie Trails Club Inc.**

Teleconference

**June 30, 2020**

## **Board Members**

Diane Blais  
Bruce Fingerhut  
Carolla Heilstedt  
Kathy Lucas (nonvoting)  
Steve Lucas  
Brian McMillin  
Sharon Smead

## **Call to Order and Quorum**

Carolla Heilstedt, President of the Prairie Trails Club Inc. (“PTC”) called to order a meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) on June 30, 2020 at 4:34 p.m., CDT (5:34 p.m., EDT). Board members Diane Blais, Bruce Fingerhut, Carolla Heilstedt, Steve Lucas and Brian McMillin were present, as well as Kathy Lucas, Treasurer. Carolla recognized a quorum. Board Member Sharon Smead joined the meeting in progress.

## **Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2020 Meeting**

Brian moved to approve draft minutes of the Board meeting that was held on June 11, 2020 with technical modifications for distributions of the new brochures and the inclusion of an image of the *Vin Fiz* interpretive sign erected by Rick Vlaming. Sharon seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

## **Prairie Trails Club Mower**

Carolla opened the floor of the Board meeting to discuss the management and use of a mower which was authorized by PTC membership for purchase in May 2018. The current meeting was called after Bruce received a text request from Kenny Bailey on or about June 29 that Bruce or his designee mow and perform other maintenance along the Erie Trail from Main Street to County Road 250 West. This service was understood to be in support of an event scheduled by the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum (the “HVRM”) on Independence Day, although neither the HVRM Board nor its President made a request. Board members prepared a draft authorization

with Rick Arnett, which Bruce shared as a concept, to use the mower. Arnett used the mower previously, sharpened its blades, and is thought to have the expertise necessary for continued maintenance. Under the draft, Arnett would have stored the mower, and, as consideration for providing storage, could have used it on his own property in addition to performing service along the Erie Trail. A primary purpose for this Board meeting would have been to determine whether to enter an agreement with Arnett, and, if so, what should be the terms of the agreement.

A few minutes before the PTC Board meeting, Donna Osborne texted Bruce as follows: “After speaking with Rick Arnett and the volunteers that form the Erie Trail Travelers we will be taking another route to aid in the maintenance that’s needed for the trail. Therefore at this time we no longer have a need for the mower.”

With Osborne’s email, the Board agreed that her text made unnecessary an immediate decision as to future use of the mower. But the members also agreed that a decision should be made in the near term as to the disposition of the mower for Erie Trail maintenance, not only on the western two miles of the trail, but also on the existing seven miles to US 35 and the two miles east of US 35 now in development.

Board members expressed concerns with respect to signage which the Erie Trail Travelers have placed along the trail identifying individuals who are sponsoring mile segments. Some PTC members have asked the Board what sponsorship entails in terms of maintenance.

In addition, Osborne emailed Bruce: “If by chance the PTC would like to donate the mower that was purchased with the community’s donation funds to HVRM there’s a possibility we would continue to put it to use for only what it was purchased for.”

The Board determined to develop a consensus letter to respond to Osborne’s text and to seek clarity as to Erie Trail Travelers’ mile-segment sponsorship and intentions for trail maintenance. The hope was the letter could be developed and sent in time to give the Erie Trail Travelers a reasonable opportunity to reply before the July 27 PTC Membership meeting. The Membership might then be invited to take action on disposition of the mower.

## **Liaisons Between the PTC and the HVRM**

The PTC has benefited greatly from Bob Albert’s service as HVRM liaison to our organization. Bruce indicated HVRM President, Todd Flanigan, expressed a desire for the PTC have a liaison to his organization as well. The measure of our communications has been compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic. Linda Byer is the PTC’s designated liaison, but some Board members said they believed she no longer wished to serve in this capacity. Bruce said he would talk to Linda to clarify her preferences. If she does not wish to continue as our liaison to the HVRM, the Board will need to revisit this subject.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m., CDT (6:25 p.m., EDT).