

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

**North Judson-Wayne Township Library
208 Keller Avenue
North Judson, IN**

June 14, 2017

MEMBERS

Kenny Bailey
Bruce Fingerhut
Carolla Heilstedt
Kathy Lucas
Steve Lucas
Brian McMillin
Rhonda Milner
Donna Osborne
Sharon Smead
Greg Wittig
Karen Wittig

GUESTS

Jessica Craig
Joshua Schreiner

Call to Order

Bruce Fingerhut, President, called to order a meeting of the Prairie Trails Club (the "PTC") at 6:04 p.m., CDT on June 14, 2017 in the North Judson-Wayne Township Public Library. Introductions were made around the table.

Approval of Minutes

Greg Witting moved to approve without amendment the minutes of the meeting held on May 17, 2017. Rhonda Milner seconded the motion. On a voice vote the motion carried.

Report of June 14 Board of Directors Meeting

Steve Lucas said Bruce, Sharon Smead, Karen Wittig and he met in the same location at 5:00 p.m. for the initial meeting of the PTC Board of Directors. The agenda had proposed provisions to govern the Board as well as membership referrals pertaining to signage and communications with the media. Board members will review draft meeting minutes and expect to have proposals for action at the membership's July 11 meeting.

Treasurer's Report following 5K Color Run/Walk

Kathy provided the Treasurer's Report with a PTC balances summary was as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| The First National Bank of Monterey | |
| May ending balance (4/28/17) | \$1,235.52 |
| Receipts for 5K run/walk tickets, donations, and memberships (including four lifetime) | <u>4,985.75</u> |
| Total | 6,221.27 |
| | |
| 1/2 reimbursement for prepaid Color Blaze kits -\$ 656.02 (other 1/2 Steve and Kathy donation) | |
| Payment for Market advertising | <u>-254.20</u> |
| Total | -910.22 |
| | |
| Ending FNBM balance (June 14, 2017) | \$5,311.27 |
| | |
| PayPal | 103.34 |
| | |
| NICF | 5,279.71 |
| | |
| TOTAL | \$10,694.32 |

She summarized by reporting the difference between May and June balances was an increase of \$4,081.53.

Kathy noted the key to our improved financial circumstances was the very successful 5K Color Run/Walk on National Trails Day. She said a retrospective on the event and the possibility of a similar event next year would be on the July agenda. But she would be remiss if she did not pass along appreciation to those who worked and attended. Kathy offered a special thanks for the great commitment and dedication of Committee Chair, Madison Osborne, and to Donna Osborne who hosted Committee meetings, procured donors, and stored materials needed for the event. She said success of the event was based largely on the donations and commitment of Kenny Bailey and the persistence of Peggy Bohak.

Kathy asked how best to extend appreciation to local businesses and Town of North Judson officials and staff for their outstanding assistance. Suggestions were to post a "thank you" notice in the *Market* newspaper or to attend a meeting of the Town Council. Jessica Craig agreed to help draft a notice for the newspaper. Bruce recommended also asking for PTC "smiling faces" to appear before the Town Council so Council members, the town police and volunteer fire department could all be recognized and thanked.

Report of Receipt of IRS Approval Letter for PTC as a 501(c)(3) Organization

Kathy reported she received the official IRS notification letter announcing the PTC's 501(c)(3) status "was granted and became effective on the February 21, 2017 date of our application." As a result PTC donations made after February 21 are tax deductible rather than the March 16 date reported earlier.

Update on Trail Crossing at Fell Ditch and New Benches

Bruce acknowledged developing a temporary arrangement at the Fell Ditch bridge to help alert users of subsidence along the north edge of the payment. The membership also noted a bench was set on the bridge. More recently a second bench was set at the site of the former water tower midway between the North Judson Trailhead and the Rest Park Trailhead on SR 10.

Planning for Bicycle Ride from BLPOA Building to Bailey's Discount Center

Steve reminded the membership the Bass Lake Property Owners Association is planning a free bicycle ride to help acquaint its members with the trail and connectors to the trail. The ride would begin at the BLPOA Building on July 15, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., CDT (9:00 a.m., EDT). The PTC is assisting with defining a route and would provide participants with information regarding the planned development of way-finding and interpretive signage, as well as suggest additional bike route options.

He said Rick Anderson, BLPOA President, is developing a flyer for distribution in support of the event. The BLPOA is authoring the flyer, not the PTC. But Rick has solicited input on drafting. A color-coded copy of the draft flyer was distributed at the meeting to the membership.

Most discussion was directed to clerical or technical adjustments, but there was also an extensive conversation regarding bicyclist use of helmets. Helmets were not referenced in the BLPOA draft flyer. PTC members who have participated in organized bike rides said helmets are generally required. This informal event does not have an entry fee and would be held on public trails and roadways not controlled by the BLPOA (or the PTC). With an understanding the decision rests with the BLPOA, PTC members recommended the flyer state either (1) riders must wear helmets; or (2) riders are urged to wear helmets.

Kenny said Bailey's Discount Center would help provide water to bicyclists on site and would be willing to deliver purchases made by them to the BLPOA building. Bailey's would not transport bicyclists or riders. Participants would need either to arrange their own motorized transportation from Bailey's Discount Center back to Bass Lake or take a 16-mile round trip ride.

Steve thanked the members for their helpful input. He said he would pass along their thoughts to Rick Anderson including suggestions for editing the BLPOA flyer.

Starke County Young Professionals Group

Joshua Schreiner and Jessica reported on recent activities of the Starke County Young Professionals Group, including a presentation of the movie the *Shallows* at the Bass Lake Beach on June 24, 2017 at 8:00 p.m., CDT.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m., CDT.