

Minutes of the April 27,2023 Friends of McCoy's Creek Trail Executive Meeting called to order by Chairperson Jerry Flenar at 9:03 a.m. City Hall. Attending: Ward, Flenar, Burgoyne, Writer, Brooks, and Jacob. Absent: Dougherty, McClellan, and McDonald.

Visitors: None.

Agenda: A motion to accept the April 27,2023 Agenda, as amended to add item 13, was approved and carried.

Public Comments: None.

Secretary's Report: A motion to accept the minutes of the March 16,2023 Meeting was approved and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Flenar reported that \$40,914.68 in expenditures has been paid to Wightman and Associates for Engineering costs for the Phase 3 Trail Extension from E.B. Clark Woods up Schirmer Parkway to River Street and up Walton Road to River St. Joe Brewery. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, with an available cash balance of \$99,640.01 as of March 14,2023, was approved and carried.

City Planning Commission: No report.

Trail Fundraising Events: Member Ward is exploring possibilities for 5K/10K running and/or biking events using the Trail. His RedBud Running Club and the Bike Buchanan group will discuss ideas for possible events. Bike Buchanan currently meets at RSJ on Tuesday Evenings.

Trail Extension: Flenar reported that SWMPC Deputy Executive Director/Senior Planner Marcy Hamilton indicated that her recent discussion with U.S. Representative Tim Walberg shows good potential for our extension funding application for Phase 4, eventually extending the Trail to Winn Road, near the M-139 Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail being planned. The United Way of Southwest Michigan's Be Healthy Berrien collaboration, led by Dawn Marie Smith, could receive \$2,000,000 toward the extension to the US-31 Bypass intersection this round and possibly more in next year's round of grants. The original application was for 3.2 million dollars, and we are on the "short list" of

applicants. Future funding of the extension from the US-31 Bypass to Winn Road would be the desired outcome.

Berrien County Jail Crew: The Berrien County Jail Crew is still unavailable because of Covid numbers at the jail. Trail members who walk the Trail are encouraged to locate potential crew projects along the Trail, should the Jail Crew become available. Burgoyne, Flenar, and Writer may be able to note some potential projects.

Bainton Mill Maintenance: Edgewater Bank has graciously volunteered to maintain the Bainton Mill area landscape and have already begun some hard work and have plans for other improvements, including new benches. Redbud Roots will still be maintaining the vacated section of Roe Street near The Common, and Honor Credit Union will keep maintaining the War Memorial site. The Trail Committee deeply appreciates the volunteers who beautify the Trail.

Eagle Scouts Projects: None are scheduled for 2023, but Troop 541 has offered to help on our tasks if the need arises.

Trail Brochures: The attractively detailed, new brochures are being distributed by Flenar, Writer, Burgoyne, McClellan, and Ward.

Proud Creek Overlook: New metal railings have been installed at the Proud Creek Overlook.

RSJ: No report.

Benches: The Bob Hoven Memorial Bench has been procured, and Jerry is meeting with Margo Green to determine an appropriate setting for placement, possibly the Bainton Mill area.

American Chestnut Trees: Mr. Wrasse has procured 6-8 more American Chestnut Trees to be planted. The Martin Family is graciously maintaining those already planted. Ward announced that 30 saplings were recently dedicated in Buchanan as part of the Buchanan Tree Friends' celebration of Arbor Day, and more saplings were distributed to students for planting at home.

Memorials: Memorials for Mae Proud and Lloyd Miller are being discussed with their families. Lloyd Miller, Charter Member of the Executive Committee, died April 19, 2023. Lloyd was on the original

planning committee to develop plans for the Trail. He was the Treasurer since the inception of the Trail Committee, and he was Chairperson for many years after Dick Proud resigned and Co-Chairperson with Jerry Flenar for the past five years. Lloyd truly loved the Trail and served the Friends of the Trail and his Community wholeheartedly for decades. He will be sorely missed.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be May 18,2023 at 9:00 a.m. City Hall. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Don Brooks, Secretary.