

## **THE FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL PARTNERS**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**July 15, 2009**

The Meeting of the Board of Directors for THE FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL PARTNERS was called to order at 6:33 pm, July 15, 2009, at The Old Fire Hall, Republic, WA, the place designated for such meeting. The meeting was called upon at least two days' notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting. The following were present: Directors Bob Whittaker, Melissa Rose, Sarah Spark, DiAnne Hewitt, and Judie Cribby; and Visitors.

**WELCOME, CHANGES TO AGENDA:** Agenda was circulated and additions requested.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Spark commented that the Minutes of the June 18, 2009 meeting had been circulated and corrected by the majority of the Board; edits were called for and made. With the one edit, the Minutes were approved. Spark will forward a final version to everyone, and Bob will see that it is posted on our website.

Regarding the August 20 meeting, DiAnne indicated that she will not be present; Spark's fire schedule is impossible to predict; so Bob, Mel and Judie will constitute the quorum, with Bob holding Spark's proxy, if necessary. The calendar was circulated for everyone's entries.

There was discussion regarding unanswered queries to the website and/or email. To clarify confusion, Bob will continue to monitor correspondence to the website, as Melissa does the mailbox. Each drafts, or enlists another to assist, and circulates appropriate responses for approval. It was decided to provide standardized answers such as, "Thank you for your comments" or "You've been added to our contact list." Bob will take care of that project.

Melissa reported a request for a letter of support to the City of Grand Forks, B.C./Boundary Community regarding the proposed abandonment of the rail on the east side of the County in order to assist in their preserving the line to Grand Forks. Melissa will draft a response in which we first and foremost support rail line retention; but, if this is unsuccessful, suggest they position themselves to railbank the corridor, and to suggest they contact "Trails BC" or "BC Tourism".

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** DiAnne presented a financial statement ending June 30 which indicated a total balance of \$2,731.48, of which \$924.01 is in checking. A copy of that Statement is attached.

Melissa provided DiAnne correspondence regarding a Microsoft program of matching funds; DiAnne will look into it.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Community Outreach/Judie: Spark asked what had been decided regarding the wristband PR idea and the decision was to postpone that project at this time in favor of more pressing time and monetary issues.

County Fair: Judie and Bob will coordinate our presentation at this year's Fair. The booth price is \$35 for non-profits, plus \$15 for electricity, and Judie will take care of the application. It was also decided to sponsor at least 4 trophies for 4-H equestrian events, at \$15 per trophy. DiAnne will follow up and advise.

Curlew Lake Association (CLA): Bob and Melissa will be giving an update at the CLA annual potluck, Saturday, July 18. They will speak at about 11:45, right before lunch! It is noted that the CLA has voted to remain neutral on the non-motorized/motorized issue.

Bob, Spark, DiAnne and Judie will all be representing FC RTP at the Mountain Bike Festival in September.

Trail Surface/Nils & Keith: No report was given.

Trail Development: As reported last month, the corridor needs to be "canvassed from the best vantage point from the corridor itself" to ensure each culvert, ballast erosion, area of extra sensitivity (e.g., how far is the trail to that bathroom window?), encroachment of certain Adjacent Land Owners (ALO), etc. is documented.

Discussion was held regarding both our intention, and the recent decision by the Recreational Trail Committee, to canvass and document the trail. Spark suggested a protocol, with a standardized tracking document, be created. It was decided to confer with Nils and Keith about necessary equipment they have available and possible dates and time to walk the trail. A good idea was agreed upon: to invite adjacent landowners beforehand to accompany the walkers, as they'll know their property and what's there. Calling upon our local friends in this way will enhance the quality of the project.

The Recreational Trail Committee, represented by Landon, Jacob, Jim and Stan, intends to drive and videotape from the road, presumably with GPS units documenting items of concern or interest. Their own deadline to have that done by is Aug. 6, the date of their next meeting. Bobbi has asked to be involved in that project but has yet to hear from the others as to when.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Update on Ferry County Recreation Trail Advisory Committee: Bob gave the following report:

Five unified committee members, who had previously agreed to the emergency meeting for  
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an interim plan, decided to adjourn the meeting on a technicality regarding notification under Robert's Rules of Order. (No citation was made as to which rule was being violated.) Although each was present and accounted for, and although they were requested to go forward with the agenda, they exerted their power at the meeting: the meeting was adjourned and no joint work was done on the draft. Bob, Landon and Jacob had a draft to present,. So did Jim, who presented a checkerboard of motorized/non-motorized use, with 5 sections excluding the Golden Tiger Pathway.

At the next regular meeting, the facilitator Karen von Saust resigned due to the adverse political nature of the committee. She also cited her frustration with the conflicting instructions from the Commissioners. At that meeting, the Commissioners relieved the committee of its charge to draft an interim plan, stating that they would do so themselves.

A document entitled Ferry County Ordinance No. 2009-06 "Rail Corridor Interim Management Plan" was provided and discussed. It was decided to support this document as is, although several edits were suggested, should the opportunity occur. Bob presented a draft email to be sent requesting support for this document.

Several, including Chair Bobbi and Bob, have requested the Commissioners to fill the position of facilitator, indicating that the committee in its present state will be stymied without one. They were told, "no". There was much discussion regarding these issues.

Bob pressed for a survey to be prepared, which Jacob has done, and which was also discussed. A copy of that survey is attached.

Bob, and others, have also pressed to take this issue before the people in a vote. This appears to be a real possibility: it would cost approximately \$2,300 to get on the ballot this Fall, with a deadline no later than August 11. This would be a non-binding, advisory vote which should eliminate the Commissioners' inability to decipher the will of the people.

Lastly, Bob reported that the Deed still has not been filed.

The next meeting of the Recreation Trail Advisory Committee is Thursday, August 6, at 6:30 in the Commissioners' office. It is an open meeting and everyone is welcomed to attend. All were reminded that public input continues to be very important at this time.

Possible FC RTP Board Members: There was discussion regarding the need for additional Board members, as well as committee members, to help. How to re-vitalize the issue and energize those who previously offered to help. It was decided to form a "Research & Development Committee" and invite Keith Bell to help with various projects under that heading. It was also decided to put the call out for 2 positions on our Board, with applicants sending letters of interest. Bob will post the call on the website.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

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It was decided to do two separate mailings to adjacent landowners on both sides of the County. Both will discuss the topics of the Recreational Trail Committee and the proposed vote. The westside mailing will include the Landers' article and the 2002 letter from the Commissioners regarding ATV use on the Golden Tiger Pathway. The eastside mailing will include the letter of support for the line to Grand Forks. Lastly, we will place an informational ad with Digital Documents' card deck. Bob and Melissa will draft those documents.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on July 20, 2009, at The Old Fire Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm, at which time watermelon was enjoyed to celebrate Judie's birthday.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sarah K.W. Spark, Secretary

**To Do:**

- Spark to finalize & circulate 6/18/09 Meeting Minutes
- Bob to install response buttons for web mail
- DiAnne to follow up on Microsoft fund raiser
- Mel & Bob to speak @ Curlew Lake Assoc.
- Judie to apply for booth at Fair
- DiAnne to follow up on Fair trophies
- Bob to check w/ Steve re tri-fold brochure by Fair/Mtn Bike Fest times
- SOMEONE?? to lead corridor canvassing project; create protocol & survey form
- Bob & Mel to draft ALO mailings & info card