

THE FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL PARTNERS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

August 20, 2009

The Meeting of the Board of Directors for THE FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL PARTNERS was called to order at 6:36 pm, August 20, 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, and Judie Cribby; Committee member Keith Wakefield ("Wake") and Visitors. Director Keith Bell arrived a bit late, and was welcomed as our new Board member. When asked his vision, he simply stated, "to see a non-motorized rail trail".

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Spark circulated the Minutes of the July 15 meeting, edits having been previously called for and made; the Minutes were approved as presented. Spark will forward a final version to everyone, and Bob will see that it is posted on our website.

Melissa reported on correspondence from Bill Holmes, an east-side resident; Bob indicated that our email correspondence included notification from Pay Pal of 3 or 4 donations. Melissa said that DiAnne had accomplished setting up the site for the "Microsoft Matching Funds" program.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In DiAnne's absence, Melissa presented a financial statement which indicated a total balance of \$2,618.23, of which \$724.73 is in checking and \$1,893.50 is in savings. A copy of that statement is attached. She further reported that the Digital Documents' bill for the card deck insertion is \$114.28; the post office rental is \$20.00, and she requested reimbursement of \$75.00 for phone bills (letter attached) and \$8.59 for thank you cards. Her request was modified to reflect a reimbursement of \$100.00 plus the \$8.59.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Outreach/Judie:

County Fair: Judie and Bob worked out our presentation at this year's Fair. The booth will include electricity. There was no follow up to the discussion of sponsoring at least 4 trophies for 4-H equestrian events, at \$15 per trophy. This will be completed via telephone.

Curlew Lake Association (CLA): Bob and Melissa gave an update at the CLA annual potluck, Saturday, July 18, and Bob described funding issues. They felt well-received and were rewarded with the CLA's intention to write a letter of support for a non-motorized rail trail.

Bob, Spark, and Judie will all be representing FC RTP at the Mountain Bike Festival in September. We discussed having a “static” (non-staffed) presentation, with all involved stopping in at it from time to time. DiAnne, too, will be attending the event. Wake reminded us that about 85% of the attendees are from Spokane, because the Spokane Parks & Rec were among the organizers/sponsors.

Trail Surface/Nils & Wake: Wake reported that one major issue which concerns him is the lack of weed control, with the surface presenting a perfect seedbed. Mullein and other noxious weeds have received no treatments and they are obviously beginning to thrive. Weeds can be easily seen when driving near the rail trail. Our educational efforts and the signage used must tie in with agricultural concerns. Getting the adjacent landowners involved will be key to keeping the weeds under control. It was mentioned that the County has a spraying truck, but is apparently short-handed this season and very far behind schedule.

Trail Development: The canvassing project has yet to start, due to Nils’ absence – he has the proper equipment to do the job. Bob and Wake will confer with Nils upon his return.

Research & Development Committee: [Although this committee’s formation was voted upon at the July 17 meeting, it has yet to be staffed.]

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on Ferry County Recreation Trail Advisory Committee: “Combative positioning” were words used by Bob to report on the behavior of some of the committee members. Bob made a motion for the committee to recommend to the Commissioners to put the issue on the ballot, which passed. Ed Watt then attended the Commissioners’ next meeting and made the recommendation to add this issue to the ballot as non-binding, advisory, using simple words such as “motorized or non-motorized”. Mr. Watt followed with the statement “as succinct as possible”.

The Commissioners unanimously agreed to Ed’s recommendation, but there ensued much discussion regarding the exact wording, such as incorporating the word “multi” with motorized and non-motorized, e.g., “non-motorized multi-use or motorized multi-use”. Prosecuting Attorney Mike Sandona will work on the wording.

At their meeting, the Recreation Trail Advisory Committee members also discussed putting the committee on hold until the outcome of the November 3rd vote, but the group decided to keep working on trail-related projects. The adjacent landowner survey which has been previously discussed and a draft prepared was again on the table.

However, when Bob brought up the survey at the Commissioners’ meeting, he was met with protest from his fellow committee members who represent these three groups: the Back Country Horsemen, the motorized contingent, and the KRAB.

Bob will revisit the survey issue at the next meeting of the Recreation Trail Advisory

Committee, which is irregularly scheduled this month for Tuesday, September 8, 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 more discussion another Board member, as well as committee members, to help. One name was mentioned, and Spark will invite that person to attend our next Board meeting.

Letter of Support for Possible East Side Rail Abandonment: Melissa reported that the letter had been written and sent to the BC Boundary Region/City of Grand Forks supporting their efforts to retain the rail service.

Update on Mailing to ALOs on East & West Sides: Melissa said that, too, had been accomplished.

Deed Status: It's filed!!!

Interim Ordinance: It passed, a copy of which is attached. Bob, Melissa, Spark and Judie had attended the Commissioners' continued hearing on the ordinance last week and informed the rest of those present of the events which took place. Specifically, the Lammar's offered to purchase laminated signs, the wording to be worked out by the Commissioners, and by this meeting, that had occurred. There had been much discussion regarding using sawhorses to post the signs, or treated posts. Commissioner Bob Heath was to research the cost of using posts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eastside Rail Abandonment: Through our mailing to adjacent landowners, we have been contacted by folks on the east side and a meeting has been arranged by several interested residents. Bob and Melissa will attend, with the intention of providing whatever support we can to their endeavors. If abandoned, it becomes inevitable that the right-of-way will need to be preserved.

Public Works Grant: Bob discussed a new grant by the Washington Public Works/Recreational Conservation Office ("RCO") specifically geared to rural counties with high unemployment rates, as well as other criteria. A point system is used to critique the applications, and Ferry County contains many of the elements to earn high points. We would contend that creating jobs impacts unemployment significantly, discussing the value the project presents to the community. The \$10 million grant must be spent soon, and the application's deadline is September 8. There is nothing to denote any designation such as non-motorized or motorized.

Receiving this grant would be a "pre-planned public safety project" which could finance non-contested items, such as informational signs, yield signs, appropriate posts, a survey of the trestle, materials and decking for the trestle, as well as first course of gravel and culverts in hot spots such as the lake area.

Bob said he had sent copies of the grant to the Commissioners, and to all Recreational Trail Adv. Committee members, and received 2 responses: Bobbi Weller agreed to review it, and Ed Watt gave a hostile response accusing Bob of being distractive, divisive and not on point. No one else responded. He has requested to speak before the Commissioners at their meeting Monday.

Also discussed was the possible need of meeting more often than monthly, as needed. All agreed.

Display: It was agreed to purchase a tri-folding display board for our presentations. Bob will do the research, conferring with the Board before buying.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on September 17, 2009, at The Old Fire Hall in Republic.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm, at which time everyone enjoyed focaccia with mozzarella cheese, pesto & tomatoes that Judie brought. Yea, Judie!!

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah K.W. Spark, Secretary

To Do:

- Spark to finalize & circulate 8/20/09 Meeting Minutes
- Mel & Bob to attend meeting with east-side residents
- Bob & Judie to staff Ferry County Fair booth; Melissa & Spark if they can
- 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
- Mel to write & send thank you notes