



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2021
via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:04 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kenny Price, Kurt LaFrance, Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell, Kay Brown, Cathy Jehnzen, Dan Kaser, John Minar, Kurt Rudolph, and Benji Ward

Absent: Jeff Lolkus

Guests: Special thanks to Blackman Township for the use of their Zoom account.

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the amended emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Dan Kaser, and approved by all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed June minutes as amended by Jack Ripstra seconded by Cathy Jehnzen, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb Snell reported that we have 72 paid memberships and one pending on Wild Apricot.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported Net Income of -\$1,748.43 at the end of June. The fee for Wild Apricot will increase 25% this coming February.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jack reported that we started June with water levels too low in the river and are now looking at high levels and downed trees, necessitating the cancelling of the July paddle through the City.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kenny had no report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **June Paddle on the Kalamazoo** – There were 22 that showed up and 20 paddled (ended up short on equipment).
- **July Paddle, Little Wolf Lake** – Kurt LaFrance will be the Trip Leader. There appears to be little need for equipment (however, this did change).
- **Safety on/in/by the water** – A reservation request for the July paddle caused concern with a lack of guidance on children and trip safety. A request was made for a boat for an inexperienced woman and three young kids. Therefore, an ad hoc committee was formed of Kenny Price, Kurt Rudolph, Cathy Jehnzen, and John Minar. Kenny will convene a meeting at Knights. Meeting topics to be covered will include:
 - Children on trips (ages, ratio of children to adult, life jackets),
 - Trip Leader Training (First Aid, CPR, boat rescue skills, Trip Bag Inventory)
 - Safety Equipment (Safety Whistles, Trip Bag Contents, pump, spare paddles, paddle float)
 - Inexperienced Paddlers (ID at sign-up, pairing with more experienced)
- **Children on Trips** – included in above
- **August Paddle** – The paddle will be held at Lake Winnewana. We will meet up at 9:15 Saturday, August 14.
- **Meeting with Jackson City Manager** – Jack Ripstra met with the Johnathan Green, the City Manager of the City of Jackson. There was discussion of the clearing of the river through the City by the DPW. The City DPW will be unable to clear the numerous downed trees prior to the July trip.

Therefore, the change in location to Little Wolf Lake. The City requested a list of clearing needs with some advanced notice. The Board had discussion on the exact method to accomplish the request. There was also discussion of when a Special Event Application is required.

- **Annual Cleanup** – Jack is still working on transportation logistics. At this time, it appears we are utilizing RA Greene Park. The City Special Event Application cost has increased. There were suggestions to contact Gerdau Steel and Consumers Energy (Jessica) for volunteer assistance.
- **Marketing** – There continues to be a need to change our outreach to the community to meet with the changing way people obtain their news and information. An ad hoc committee was formed of Kay Brown, Cathy Jehnzen, Deb Snell, Kurt Rudolph, and Benji Ward. There was discussion of utilizing Lansing Oar and Paddle’s Loretta Crum’s expertise, a Wild Apricot Webinar, and other marketing individuals.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: There was discussion about Wild Apricot in light of the cost increase. We are not fully utilizing its capabilities. We should look closer at splitting up the Secretary duties. The Newsletter was delayed and should go out in July.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: No report.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: No report

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: The bench arrived. Jack installed it and sent out pictures. The neighbors to the West are not doing well.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: The Vandercook Lake Kayak Launch material should be delivered to the County in August. The clearing of the shore at Keely Park was deemed too difficult due to the steep slope.

Water Trail: Paul Rentschler has retired.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Council: No report.

Earth Day: No report.

JCCD:. No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 as moved by Jack Ripstra, seconded by Kurt Rudolph and approved by all.

The next monthly meeting will be in August 4, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. at the Summit Township Hall.

Kurt Rudolph, Recorder of Minutes

The mission of GREAT is to promote the protection and preservation of the Grand River Watershed through activities and educational programs.