



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2021
via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:08 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent: Kay Brown, Jeff Lolkus, Kurt Rudolph

Guests: none

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 Jon Minar, seconded by Benji Ward, and approved by all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the April minutes by Benji Ward, seconded by Dan Kaser, and approved by all.

There was a motion to accept the Organizational Meeting minutes by Jack Ripstra, seconded by Dan Minar and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb noted that we have 65 paid members, which is down 19 from this month last year. We are down 2 Sponsors, 2 Families and 15 Individuals. Last month we were down 33 members, so we've caught up a lot in a month.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported assets of \$16,607.49 at the end of April. Down a little bit since our insurance was billed earlier in the year and a smaller donation from one benefactor.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

The river is low--about 3 inches deep at Jefferson Rd. Flow is about 1/3 of normal for this time of year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President moved directly into Discussion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Earth Day 2021 – Kenny believes there were more than 300 people at Earth Day. Normal would be in the 600-800 range.
- Michigan Theater Popcorn – Kenny talked to Steve Tucker and there are some days open for our sponsorship of the Michigan Theatre popcorn day. We need to decide what to put on the marquee. This will be decided by e-mail once we know how much space is available on the marquee.
- Jack is going to e-mail out copies of the GREAT flyer for the board members to play around with updating.
- Community group rewards program allows nonprofits to earn money by encouraging people to sign

up for a home energy audit through Consumers Energy. It sounded like a lot of people would need to sign up in order to make money so the board was not too enthusiastic.

- Jessica Spagnuolo from Consumers Energy reached out to Deb about having Consumers help with the annual Grand River cleanup.
- The river might be too low to do June's mystery trip. A different option is being considered for the mystery paddle.
- The Event Roster was filled out with "volunteers."

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: The next newsletter is planned for June 1. Deb will e-mail out the article assignments.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: see above.

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 was ordered. John Minar will drop off a mower at the barn to help with mowing the grass.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Water Trail: No report.

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: on hold.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Council: No report.

Earth Day: see above.

JCCD:. No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 as moved by Cathy Jehnzen, seconded by Dan Kaser and approved by all.

The next monthly meeting will be in June 2, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Kurt LaFrance, Recorder of Minutes

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