



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 2, 2022
Blackman Township Hall

The meeting was called to order in record time by Vice-President, Kurt LaFrance at 7:01 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Jack Ripstra, Kurt LaFrance, Kay Brown, Cathy Jehnzen, Kurt Rudolph, Deb Snell, and Benji Ward.

Absent: Kenny Price, Dan Kaser, and John Minar,

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the amended emailed agenda by Kurt LaFrance, seconded by Benji Ward, and approved by all.

MINUTES:

A motion to accept the amended minutes from the September meeting was made by Benji Ward, seconded by Jack Ripstra, and approved by all. A motion to accept the amended minutes from the October meeting was made by Jack Ripstra seconded by Kurt Rudolph and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb Snell reported that there was one new member and one membership renewal last month.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer mailed out a Balance Sheet, a Budget Comparison, and a Profit & Loss sheet. Jack reported that we have total assets of \$18,677.27. Cathy Jehnzen moved to accept the report, seconded by Kurt Rudolph and approved by all.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jack reported that the Grand River Trail meeting authorized the purchase and installation of street signs on the bridges over the Grand River with a mileage indication to Lake Michigan.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

There was no report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Resident Desire for Trail to River** – In response to the McConnel Dr resident who would like to clear a trail across the GREAT property to get to the river to allow for kayak launching. Our insurance agent recommends that the party sign a waiver of liability
- **Large Tree 100 Burt Ave** – There was discussion of a concern by a neighbor about a large tree on GREAT property that endangered his property. The matter was discussed with respect to the precedent it might create. The adjacent landowner has the right to remove parts of the tree that overhang his land. No issues could be identified through online aerial maps. Some Board members will review prior to the next meeting.
- **October Paddle** – The Tompkins-Onondaga paddle was attended by about 20. It was a pretty, cool, and windy paddle. Lunch was at Archeys in Onondaga.
- **GREAT In the Future** – There was continued discussion of ways that we can deal with clearing demands and our paddles. New options discussed included:
 - Utilizing other river systems that are not so close to headwaters, which create more clearing

demands. This can be complicated by the additional trailering and time requirements. The most favorable areas might include areas of the Middle Grand, the Middle Huron and portions of the Kalamazoo rivers.

- Partnering with other River Groups such as Rouge Paddling, Lansing Oar and Paddle (LOAP), etc. in cross promoting each other's trips.

- Doing more Bring Your Own Boat (BYOB) trips, and

- finding ways to co-opt others to assist in clearing and paddling.

This matter will continue to be discussed.

- **Marketing** – The group agreed that there is a need to really market GREAT. It is understood that the methods have changed with the decline in local newspapers. Therefore, GREAT needs to find other ways to get GREAT information out to the public space via: social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), other partners who issue newsletters (Conservation District, Dahlem, Experience Jackson, etc.), along with new partners (Jackson Seniors, Jackson Young Professionals, etc.). The group discussed the use of Meet-up. There is now some concern with this as LOAP has looked at discontinuing its use of this system due to changes in costs.

Standing Committees:

Communication: Jack and Deb reported on a call to the GREAT phone by a Conservation Officer who found a bait pile and hunting blind on the GREAT property. Jack discussed the issue with the officer and said we have not authorized hunting on the land. The officer said that he can enforce no hunting on the property if we post “No Hunting” signs. Cathy said that she had some and could obtain more. It was recommended to place the signs at the end of each roadway ending at the GREAT property. Jack moved that the Board approve up to \$50 for the purchase of additional signs as required. Cathy seconded and it was approved by all.

A Communications Committee meeting will be held on December 12 at 6PM at Deb's house.

Deb, Kurt L., Kay, Cathy, Kurt R., and John are to attend.

Newsletter: The Newsletter has not been completed but will include a year in review.

Finances: The Annual Finance Meeting will occur on December 19 at 5:30 at Jack's.

Activities & Calendar: The Annual Activities Calendar Meeting will also occur on December 19.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: Kurt Rudolph to check on Brandon Goyings.

GREAT Equipment: The trip bags have been put away. Canoes need moving. The workbench area is being cleaned up by Deb.

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: Dan repaired the entry door. Jim and Sandra painted the door.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: on hold.

Water Trail: see Discussion Item above

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Alliance: See Rivermaster's report.

Earth Day: No report.

JCCD: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Life Jackets – We need to move some Small and Medium to replace the Universal used during the Annual Clean-up.

Betty Desbiens – It was noted that a meeting with Betty will be rescheduled at her convenience. She is 102 yo.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57.

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.

Past Meeting(s) To Do List

- **Open Board Positions** –
 - **Other Board Members** should look to identify other individuals who might be willing to serve on the board. An ideal candidate would be tech savvy to assist with items like: Wild Apricot, Meet-up, Wix, and Chimp-Monkey.
- **Marketing** –
 - **Kay Brown** and **Deb** will provide a write-up of their findings thus far on the topic as performed by the Lansing Oar and Paddle Club. The write-up will include the various software/apps used by LOAPC and their costs.
 - **Kay** and **John** will take the lead on placing information on Meet-up
- **Newsletter** – **Deb** to complete newly formatted Newsletter to be distributed via email and issue by ?
- **JTV** – **Kurt R** will arrange an appearance on JTV with Dan and himself.