



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2023
Summit Township Hall

The meeting was called to order in record time by President, Kenny Price at 7:01 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Absent:

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the amended emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Jack Ripstra, and approved by all.

MINUTES:

A motion to accept the amended minutes from the November meeting was made by Kurt R., seconded by Cathy Jehnzen, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb Snell reported that there have been seven membership renewals thus far. Jack noted via email that we are down to 21 current members and 7 Board Members have not yet renewed their membership.

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 \$20,816.52. Jack noted that year end finances have been submitted to Jeff Grund for tax purposes. There was a \$2,000 year end gift from Betty Desbiens.

RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:

Jack reported that there was a River Trail meeting in January to discuss being part of a National Paddle Trail group. The group decided that the requirement to commit to keep the river clear for paddling for 10 years was beyond the capability of the parties (GREAT, City of Jackson, Jackson County, Summit Township, Blackman Township, etc.) within Jackson County at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

There was no report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **GREAT Annual Dinner** – There was a discussion about the location of the March 22 Dinner. There was a motion by Benji Ward and seconded by Deb and approved by all to use the Eagles Nest on Clark Lake. It was decided to go with Dinner Menu Package 1 and charge individuals \$20 each (the total cost per person with tax and tip will be \$20.20) a \$200 room fee is being waived (it could mean that we do not have the room to ourselves). There will be a cash bar, water will be provided at the tables. The Dinner will begin at 6pm with a meeting at 7pm. We will have the Northwest glassed in area of the facility for our use. A desert from outside is discouraged but will be allowed if from a commercial establishment. The John Minar will look to arrange a speaker from the River Raisin Watershed group.
- **2023 Paddle Schedule** – The updated 2023 Paddle Schedule was approved. Jack reissued via email on February 2.

- **Quiet Adventures Symposium** – The following individuals signed up for the spots at the GREAT table. 8:30-11:30 Cathy & Kurt R. 11:30-2:30 Deb & Kay Brown, 2:30-5:30 John & Kenny
- **2023 Earth Day** – Board members signed up for activities on the April 22 Earth Day at Cascades Park.
- **City of Jackson Senior Paddle** – The Senior group from the City of Jackson will hold a weekday paddle on a date to be determined at Vandercook Lake area.
- **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.
- **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: Kay and Deb met with some younger folks about using social media. It was recommended to make some adjustments to better link Facebook and Instagram. Deb noted that we received notice on our membership in the Non-Profit Network. There was a motion by Kurt Lafrance to spend \$65 on the membership renewal. It was seconded by Deb and approved by all.

Newsletter: The Newsletter is still nearing completion; 2022 Year-end material is complete. The deadline to get out is February 15.

Finances: No report.

Activities & Calendar: see above.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: An old Verizon capable phone is needed briefly to transfer the GREAT phone number to the new GREAT phone. Deb has one and will provide.

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: The proposed timing of the assessment of the GREAT property for control of invasive species and native plants that should be planted and encouraged was decided to be in Mid June (6/11-6/15. Chuck Pearson, Nature Conservancy (Ives Rd Fen).

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:

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.