

MEETING MINUTES FRIENDS of the PANHANDLE PATHWAY Inc.

Board of Directors, Officers:

John Bawcum, President
Ron Simshauser, Vice President
Mike O'Connor, Treasurer
Tom Anspach, Secretary

Meeting Date: 3/31/2009 Tuesday

Location: Winamac Municipal Building, aka Pulaski County Development Commission

Attendees

Rex Allman (Winamac); Tom Anspach (Winamac); John Bawcum (Winamac); Michelle Bevins (Winamac, Pulaski County Journal); Steve Crosby (Pulaski); Kathy Kegarise (Winamac); Ron Simshauser (Winamac);

Called to Order-

- o Meeting called to order at about 6:30PM by John Bawcum President.

Regular Business

Previous minutes-

- o 3/12/2009 minutes were approved

Treasurer's/Budget report-

- o Bank Statements reviewed, summarized below. Treasures report delayed till next meeting.

Report Date		3/31/2009				
Bank	Type	Asset	Liability	\$ Interest	Int. Rate	Date
Alliance -33	Checking	\$10,396.19			0%	2/27/2009
Alliance -33	Loan		\$16,800		3.75%	2/27/2009
Alliance -53	Money Market	\$228,494.62		\$260.87	1.50%	2/27/2009
First National Monterey	Savings	\$217,602.26		\$422.00	2.47%	3/4/2009
First Federal Savings	Savings	\$227,017.95		\$347.77	2.02%	2/26/2009
Community Bank	Savings	\$185,664.97		\$342.96	2.01%	3/10/2009
Comm. Foundation	Savings	\$2,196.36			0.00%	1/21/2009
Total		\$871,372.35	\$16,800.00	\$1,373.60		
Net		\$854,572.35				
Change from:		This report less Last Report				
	2/12/09	(\$39,489.70)				

- o Ron S bill for \$6.70 for mailing Construction bid packages.
- o Green3 bill for \$3114.50. Request rationale for separate billing a portion of the work.
- o Motion made and passed to pay the Green3 and RonS bills.
- o Yearly Budget Draft, 2010, starting at \$1000 per mile (\$22,000). Most apportioned to Maintenance. Subcommittees requested to Draft initial budgets. Would need about \$500,000 savings endowment plus, fund raising to provide continuous operating (including maintenance) budget starting in future years.

Operations Committee –

[Safety, Maintenance and Management- (includes insurance, coordination of safety patrol and safety plans, and development of a maintenance plan and budget)

- o An Insurance binder was received on Friday March 13th, with invoice to follow in a few weeks.
- o Our membership ID number with Land Trust Alliance is 180485
- o Claudia White has volunteered to initiate paperwork to move FoPP from 501c4 to 501c3.

Public Relations Committee –

[All publicity and promotion activities (may include press releases, web site, trail brochure and map, t-shirt/hat sales, booth at fairs and festivals, etc)].

- o A draft press release regarding the purchase of the Panhandle has been prepared.

- Since we now have the 'money' the theme of the Pathway should change from 'money' to 'let's build it'.
- Adding the phrase 'A Linear Greenway' to the FoPP letterhead logo were discussed. It seemed to be a good phrase which would quickly indicate what the Panhandle Pathway is to become.
- Need to get the Vulcan Stone donation photo op together.
- The need to get the Web site in good condition was discussed.

Land Acquisition Committee –

[Acquisition of all property for trail, trailheads, etc. includes review of documents, one-on-one discussions with property owners, preparation of deed, title work, etc. assuring title is properly transferred, etc.]

- Pathway was Purchased from ITF by Friends of the Panhandle Pathway, Inc on March 13th 2009, with closing at Cass County Title in Logansport Indiana..
- Paperwork, with the Surface Transportation Board, is in process to transfer the Railbanking agreements from ITF to FoPP.
- Need to get paperwork started requesting exemption from Pulaski and Cass County Property taxes. .
- Volunteer work parties are forming to remove the tie down screws and bolts from the RR ties on the Tippecanoe River Bridge.
- Methods of removing the ties from the bridge are being investigated... any ideas should be provided to Ron Simshauser.

Construction Committee –

[Coordination of construction activities and approval of requests from contractors for payment (this includes working with the segment coordinators as needed to make sure everyone is clear on the scope of construction)]

- 6 Request for bids were sent out to local excavators to Clear, Grub and Grade the full length of the Pathway. Response due date extended from 4/3 to 4/10.
- Royal Center Trail head will presently be located at the end of Kramer street ON the Pathway RoW.
- The A&R Salvage company will be called for ideas on what to do with the Grade C RR ties piled along the rail bed.
- It was agreed to make the Grade C RR ties available to the public with the signing of a waiver. A is under preparation, relieving the FoPP of any responsibility of the same.
- **Safety-** Safety should be kept foremost in everyone's mind while working on the pathway. Safety should be particularly stressed when working on the bridge.
- John Bawcum will bring a safety expert around on April 14th to give us some guidance.
- The FoPP Interlocal subcommittee met with the Star City Interlocal subcommittee on March 19th and arrived at a draft Interlocal agreement for placing the sewer line on the Panhandle RoW as well as building a pumping/collection station on the Oak street lot. The draft agreement will be reviewed and finalized by the Star City Sewer District, prior to signing by both parties.

Planning and Fundraising Relations Committee –

[Obtain funding – private and public for current and future trail projects (application for and administration of grants, coordination with project sponsor/funders, and solicitation of private gifts, memberships)]

- Need to get this committee started.
- Max Metzger, Steve Crosby and Kathy Kegarise agreed to work with fundraising.
- A 'Fund raising' letter was sent to the Pulaski Memorial Hospital describing our activities, benefits and needs.
- Fund raising methods were discussed: pancake breakfasts, barbeque lunches, spaghetti dinners, embossed RR spikes, etc.

New Business

Bike Ride Tour of Nichol Plate Trail

- Would like to plan a trip for local Community leaders to tour the Nichol Plate Trail over by Peru to see and experience what a Rail to Trail conversion can look like.

St Pat's day celebration

- The Mar 14th 7:30pm celebration at Mike O's was enjoyed by all participants.

Volunteers

- Micelle B, suggested contacting school clubs for 'volunteer help', National Honor Society, etc.
- TomA will attempt to resurrect the volunteer email time work recording and time worked log.

Star City Signal Box

- A email letter was sent, by TomA, to John Shultz, Valparaiso, providing authorization to remove the RR signal box Star City so he could restore it to a functional box.

T&BT

- FoPP is helping Kiwanis and Y put on the 4th annual bike ride, May 9th.

Meeting & Events

- April 15th Star City Sewer meeting 6:30PM Star City Community Center
- April 9 5:30PM at Y Tippecanoe and Bicycles Too
- May 9th T&BT Ride
- August 1 Bicycle Tour Star City Sesquicentennial (150 Years)

Documents for Filing

- Statements (referenced above under Treasurers Report) from Alliance, First National, First Federal Savings, Community Bank were received for filing.
- A letter from Land Trust Alliance dated March 23rd 2009 was received providing our ID number and benefits... as follows:
 - ✓ ID number 180485, Effective through 3/31/2010, Discount on National and Regional Conferences, 20% discount on books and videos, Eligible for affordable liability insurance, Unlimited access to the Learning Center, Up to 3 free subscriptions to Saving Land, Go to www.lta.org for full list of benefits

Next FoPP Meeting – Noon meeting April 16th (last) Thursday PCDC/Municipal Building

- The April Evening meeting on the 28th Tuesday eve 6:30 PCDC/Municipal Building

Adjourn-

- Meeting Adjourned about 8:30 PM

Submitted by:

Tom Anspach, Secretary

Approved/Comments: OK

Date:4/16/2009

Secretary: *s/ Tom Anspach*