

Board Meeting

January 28, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Old Boys' Brewhouse

971 Savidge St.

Spring Lake, MI 49456



Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with Board Members Mark Kappel, Joe Lampen, Dayna McCoy, and Kirk Walter, as well as Members at Large Joel Blease, Randy Knapp, Julia Miller, Brian Timmer, and Alex Wagner. Additionally present was Raymond McLeod.

Approval of October 2019 Minutes: Joe motioned to approve minutes; Randy seconded.

New MEMBA President- welcome Kirk Walter, new President of MEMBA.

New Muskegon Trail Adoption Opportunity

- Raymond McLeod joined us from the Muskegon County Bicycle Coalition. The groups goal is to make Muskegon County more attractive for bike commuting and biking in general, and is working to get a 5' bike passing law approved countywide.
- A company contacted Raymond about some extra land they own but have no use for since it's a brownfield site. The land is on the North corner of Shoreline and Terrace Point Rd in downtown Muskegon, and already has a bike trail that has been worn in over the years, about ¾ mi. hilly loop. The landowner would like to have a written lease with MEMBA. Someone suggested having the trail professionally redesigned and built, to attract more people than just a 'ridden in' trail. The board is excited about the trail, and open to the lease, but needs to find out how this lease could affect liability coverage.
- Raymond also presented a 2nd location near downtown where the City of Muskegon is interested in developing an area for community use, particularly biking. This is at the beginning phases of planning and MEMBA will be kept in the loop.

2020 Goals and Objectives

- Improve board organization. Board will work to create a structural and succession plan, so someone is "groomed" for board roles in case of turnover. Kirk and Joe will work on ideas to set this up.
- All agreed to the 2020 objectives, priorities and board roles:
 - o Complete Mosquito Creek
 - o Develop new trail opportunities
 - o Maintain existing trails
 - Mark would like to see Shore Acres grow in the next few years, and plans to have more time then to get community input.
 - Randy plans keep working on Alex Stewarts design for Owasippe this summer, to fix the fall lines and improve entrances and exits for the bridges.
 - Joe got new liability waivers, and will work on touching based with trail coordinators to get regular volunteers to sign them.
 - o Grow membership
 - o Build community awareness of MEMBA
 - Trail etiquette- we would like feedback from landowners of trails we manage, to hear any complaints users have.

- Julia voiced her goal to get more women and children into mountain biking. Something like the kids group Grand Rapids Dirt Dawgs would be great in Muskegon. Joe recommended MEMBA host a 'bring a kid to bike' day.
- How to we each help accomplish the goal? (from email)
- Branding, communicating, and membership
 - Joel worked with a graphic designer to create a new logo, one that's more attractive and would be better on swag. He presented 4 new logos; the board agreed on one. Joel will get a better-quality proof to show before finalizing.
 - The next communication email will be about rebranding, and the Mosquito Creek direction change (see below).
- Access to internal information
 - Meeting minutes will be posted to the MEMBA website, and sent out via email to members to keep everyone up to date on the latest news.

Mosquito Creek Trail Update

- No signed contract for Phase III yet, but Alex has discussed with Chad to get on their construction schedule. Phase III should complete the trail.
- Working with West Shore Engineering on designing the 2 bridges. Once finalized, these designs need to be included in the permit application to EGLE. Alex motioned to pay West Shore Engineering an additional fee to submit the EGLE application for us- Randy motioned to approve, Joel seconded.
- Alex is working with 5 boy scouts who want to do a project at Mosquito Creek for their Eagle Scout project. They will probably build a few benches along the trail and a trail map kiosk mid-trail.
- The biggest need for Mosquito Creek right now is for money, so more grant writing. Kirk will work on a grant from Perrigo.
- The 1st official event at Mosquito Creek will be on May 2nd. Michael, one of the owners of Pigeon Hill Brewery, is working with Run Muskegon to host an Ultra Marathon.
- Someone contacted Alex about buying and donating property adjacent to Mosquito Creek.
- Multi-directional trail use- Mosquito Creek was professionally designed to be multi-directional, and has been used this way since it opened. A lot of negative feedback has been received about this, including worries about the new Matrix section having worse visibility once the leaves return. Alex proposed changing directions by day- the 3 loops will be one-way traffic, and the short connector areas in between will remain multi-directional- Kirk motioned to approve, Joel seconded with board unanimously agreeing. Signage will be made visible from both directions.

Bass River Update

Evergreen Ministries Trail Update - In Hudsonville, an approx. 2-mile-long pump track was made around the church. They would like help finding volunteers to finish it, not much is left to do. The church is allowing anyone using the trail to park in the parking lot. Facebook page: The Trail at Evergreen.

Jamestown Township Trail Opportunity - The Township is spearheading this project to build a trail on township property. It is in Hudsonville, adjacent to the highway, near the Harley dealership. The original rough draft has around 10 miles of trails on it. Kirk and Joe are walking it on Friday.

Upper Macatawa Trail Update - Jeff Lawrence has been working with Copes (a company in Holland) to put flagstone in muddy areas. Currently collecting money to complete this.

Riley Trail Update - New snowmobile for grooming will be ready in 1-2 weeks. Greg (trail coordinator) is looking for a shed to store the snowmobile and trailer in. Parks Dept. is on board and even said they would get him a shed, but Greg hasn't heard from them in a while.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Next meeting: April 28, 2020 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna McCoy