

Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - November 9, 2016

In Attendance: 29 in Attendance including the Full Board at the REI Conference Room in Ann Arbor. Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

Friends of the Border to Border Trail-Overview of the organization.

Bob K. gave a brief introduction outlining the purpose of the Friend of the Border to Border Trail. Organization primarily to increase awareness, advocacy, use, creation, and maintenance of the trail system.

Program--"What's New with the B2B Trail"--Peter Sanderson of the Washtenaw Co. Parks & Recreation Commission

- Peter shared that the new millage just passed will bring in an anticipated \$6 million anticipated through the new millage and \$4 million for the B2B Trail.
- The millage will also allow the WCRC to reinstate the Communities-to-Communities Grant program, which would move forward other non-motorized projects that are not associated directly with the trail.
- 25 miles completed of the B2B is complete with 35 total to be completed in the original plan. The Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative would add 20 additional miles of trail connecting to the Lakelands Trail in Genesee Co. using an existing 14 miles, which would bring the entire system up to 70 miles of total trail.
- Jeff Hardcastle shared that a TAP Grant awarded to HWPI for trail heading from Chelsea towards Dexter (4.7 miles) with anticipated construction next summer.
- Jeff stated that the Feasibility Study for Boland Interurban Rail property is completed. They are hoping to complete miles between Chelsea and Dexter within 2 years.
- HWPI is hoping to accelerate more miles of both Border to Border & HWPI within two years.
- Working on the Barton Hills connection between North Ann Arbor and Huron River Drive is a major near term project, and the plan is to make a tunnel under the track.
- An outline of the various phases to the project and the order in which they would be completed is on the WCRC website.
- Question came up about the issues of Winter Maintenance. As it was discussed, Jeff said that he anticipated that for there to be regular winter maintenance in perpetuity it would likely require a Maintenance Endowment Fund of up to \$3 million to compensate government bodies or private contractors for this work.
- There are hopes to get some portions of the northern Ypsilanti area off road if some private development moves forward this is more dependant on the city.
- Overview of Master Plan for Dexter to Ann Arbor 8.54 miles with 7.17 miles to go. It was shared that approximately 13% of traffic on Huron River Drive is cyclists.
- Peter went over in some detail the plans for each segment of the trail and the opportunities and concerns with each section. For full explanation see the WCRC website https://secure2.ewashtenaw.org/hosting/Parks_Rec/B2B_MasterPlan-DexterToAnnArbor.pdf
- Lakeland State Trail has secured some private funds to rehabilitate their trail, and they hope to get Jackson through Stockbridge done in gravel.

Update-- Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative-- Jeff Hardcastle

- Updates on HWPI were shared throughout Peter Sanderson's presentation.

Input and Suggestions for the Friends of and the B2B Trail itself

- A couple questions were answered about the Board Structure and how the Friends strive to be inclusive of all communities along the trail.

Treasury Report

- Approximately \$2800 for the current balance. See Treasurer's Report.

Election of Board Members

- All board members on the ballot were elected or re-elected to the board. These were Nate Campbell (elected) as well as re-electing Bruce Geffen, Tom Leone and Laura Shiltz, all for two-year terms

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM