

**Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Board Meeting Agenda – Tuesday, April 13, 2016, 7pm**  
REI Ann Arbor Conference Room (Not Community Room) - 970 W Eisenhower Parkway

**Agenda**

1. Call to order/Introductions/Public input
  - a. Tom Leone, Ryan Bowles, Bob Krzewinski, Eric Boyd, Francis Clark, Laura Shiltz, Ashley Fox, Cyrus Nahiti, Bruce Geffen
  - b. Started at 7:03 PM
2. General business
  - a. Agenda approval
    - Ryan moved, Eric second, passed
  - b. Minutes approval – February
    - Ryan moved, Ashley second, passed
  - c. Treasury report
    - Transfer of Paypal memberships and donation
    - Bank balance- apx. \$3600. Full Treasurer report available.
    - Federal 501c3 Approval obtained from IRS
    - 501c3 tax deduction is retroactive to March 12, 2015
    - Tom suggested that there would need to be new language reflecting our status and tax deductible monetary donations to our group
    - Ashley asked about any possible restrictions to the amount the group can raise based on the filing of 501c3 status under the shortened/abbreviated form.
  - d. Membership report
    - Laura shared one additional member added this month
  - e. Friends annual calendar list
    - Document shared with group in attendance.
  - f. Other
    - Eric shared that the publisher of the Michigan trails magazine
3. Update – B to B current projects
  - Closing of the Water Street section due to the contamination of PCB's near the Waterworks Bridge
  - Discussion of encouraging the city to get the trail open as soon as safely possible in the near future if the closing appears to delay for a significant period.
4. Current project updates
  - a. Web page
    - Bob shared that the webpage is up-to-date.
  - b. Friends flyer
    - Laura looked into local printers, online, and UPS.
    - Eric moved, Tom second, and passed to spend an amount not exceeding \$135 to get 500 flyers printed. Laura will follow through.

- Discussion of purchasing and procedure. Encouraged to get a firm quote and have Bob write a check to the organization.

c. Newsletter

- Eric will help with formatting the summer newsletter.

d. Adopt A Trail sections

- All trail sections adopted except for one Loon Feather Point Park to Bridge Rd. All current adoptees renewed their adoption status.

5. Old business

a. Trail/Friends events

- Discussion of participating with the Green Fair on June 10 in Ann Arbor. Group in favor
- Bob will look into the cost of having a table at this event, but Bob doubts that it would be over \$25.

b. Non-profit status - 501(c)3

- We got it this week.

c. Friends insurance

- Bob has spoken with McKay Insurance Agency gave a quote for apx. \$700, but Bob had a discussion with the agent
- Michigan Trails & Greenway Alliance is insured with them.

d. Snow removal on Trail

- Sent letter to WCC, Bob will follow up again in the near future.

e. 2016 priorities

- Stencils are on order. Peter Sanderson at WCPRC apologized for not getting to it sooner, but grant writing for the Dexter-Ann Arbor section of the trail has been a significant time constraint.
- Eric motion to spend up to \$100 to purchase paint for stencils, Ryan second, passed. Bob will follow up with this purchase.

f. Arbor Brewing Company B2B rides

- Communicated with ABC to say that we are enthusiastic about the rides, but cannot sponsor the rides due to possible liability issues. However, as individuals not operating in any capacity with Friends of B2B organization, there might be several willing volunteers amongst our members.
- Eric shared that ABC may want to reach out to get police support for Maiden Lane crossing in Ann Arbor.
- Bob shared ABC would still like to donate to Friends of B2B and would appreciate individual volunteers for their 2 anticipated rides this summer. Bob also suggested guidelines to the organizers about describing the ride to make sure that participants understand the difficulty of the ride they are signing up for.
- Bruce shared that ABC may be a willing contributor for various efforts of the Friends of the B2B.

g. Other

6. New Business

a. Washtenaw County Parks – Friends meeting (3/24)

- Greenways advisory committee attended by Bob, Ryan, and Bruce followed by sit-down meeting between Friends board members and the WCPRC.
- Ryan shared that he was surprised to learn that WCPRC would like to shift its role away from maintenance of the trail with a greater focus on construction of infrastructure. Their feeling was that the coordination of maintenance of the trail would be better coordinated by an overall umbrella organization that operated for the preservation and upkeep of the constructed trail. There are several reasons for this suggestion:
  1. Currently, the trail is operated through a significant number of different jurisdictions including Metro Parks, the county, townships, cities, organizations (WCC & St. Joe), and even individuals, which means there are different standards for maintenance.
  2. The parks are better disposed to get grants/funding for construction rather than maintenance.
  3. Non-profit organizations, like ours, are better disposed to procuring funds from private donors and grants for maintenance. Furthermore, such an organization, would have singular purpose/priority related to non-motorized transport unlike the various jurisdictions which currently have many other priorities beyond trail maintenance.
  4. One model they suggested was that of the TART trail system in Traverse City. Bruce detailed that this is a significant organization with 6 employees, 400 dedicated volunteers, and lots of analytics about economic impact of non-motorized trails in general and events specifically.
- Bob got the impression that they would like for us to have a much larger role either by becoming an organization like one of these other models or helping to encourage/direct an effort to create such an organization. Tom shared that if we were to pursue anything in this direction that he likes the idea of following other models and not starting from scratch, but believes that we should look at multiple models to see what best fits the needs and what an organization like ours would be willing to take on.
- Eric shared the model of Snow Buddy in Ann Arbor amongst some developments for winter maintenance and that at least for that aspect this may be a model to be explored.

b. Allen Creek Greenway (Eric Boyd)

- Eric's first meeting will be with this group at the start of May.
- Eric shared that part of this effort may include an elevated section from William Street to Felt St., which would be a significant investment, but that there are many motivated people involved with this effort.

c. Green Oak Township (Eric Boyd)

- No news on this at this time.

d. Ypsilanti B2B – Road route change – Frog Island routing – Grove Road curb cut

- Bob shared gratitude to Tom for speaking at Ypsilanti City Council meeting in favor of the Frog Island re-route to the west side of Wright St. parking lot.
- As part of a proposed Amtrak stop in Ypsilanti just north of Depot Town- Phase 1 would be a train platform, Phase 2 would be misc. improvements, and Phase 3 would involve reconstruction/reconfiguration of the Wright St parking lot which could provide a permanent re-route of the B2B around the side of Frog Island Park where there are few viable options through the park.

e. Friends/Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative cooperation

- Bob spoke with Jeff Hardcastle about how our two organizations can work together. Joint tabling at fairs, joint programming, and pursuing fundraising options for projects.

f. Other

- April 20- Eric will attend the County Ways & Means Committee to speak in the public input section of the Friend of B2B's support of the road millage, specifically the 20% dedication to non-motorized trail development.
- April 20- Public Input Meeting on Design of Ann Arbor to Dexter segment. Peter Sanderson with WCPRC will give an update on the design process and challenges. Bruce and Ryan will plan to attend the meeting to speak in favor of the proposed routing of the trail.
- April 20- Bob will be attending a meeting with the City of Ypsilanti and OHM about a bike lane on Forest Ave.
- May 4- Bob & Ashley will plan to attend the County Commissioners meeting to speak in the public input section in favor of road millage and its 20% allotment for non-motorized trail development.
- Cyrus Nahiti introduced himself and shared his background as a transportation engineer that recently moved back to the area and recently was appointed to the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) technical committee. He wanted to attend our meeting to learn about our involvement aspects of area non-motorized transport and to lend his support to our efforts.
- Francis introduced herself and shared that she enjoys utilizing the trail and is interested in helping wherever she can to further our goals of maintaining and improving non-motorized transport in the area.

7. Next meeting & location

- Discussed the merits of several possible dates for our next meeting in June and our efforts to be more transparent by moving our meetings to various locations around the county. We discussed a couple possible meeting locations with a likely location being the Baker Rd. Recreation Center in Dexter. Confirmed date and location will be shared through email, Facebook, and the website.

8. Adjournment

- Ryan motioned to adjourn, Eric seconded, passed. Dismissed at 8:31PM

#### **Friends Of The B2B – Possible 2016 Priorities**

1. Paid membership growth
2. Recruit volunteers for projects
3. Trail signage and pavement stenciling improvements
4. Trail section adoption
5. Increase Trail recognition and use campaign
6. 501(c)3 non-profit status
  - Obtaining non-profit status
  - Using status to solicit major donations for Trail construction
7. Compiling projects for possible grants/crowdsourcing
8. Friends events – i.e. Trail walks, bicycle rides
9. Events where the Friends participate
  - National Trails Day – 1st Saturday of June
  - Ann Arbor Green Fair – June
  - Huron River Day – July
  - Ypsilanti Heritage Festival – August
  - Michigan Trails Week - September
10. Trail gap conceptual plans
  - Ypsilanti Township – Bridge Road east to County line
  - City of Ypsilanti – Grove Road south to Ypsilanti Township
  - City of Ypsilanti – Frog Island Park to Eastern Michigan University
  - Eastern Michigan University – Cornell Street on road segment to off-road
11. Runner gravel paths next to hard-surface trail