

Hancock Trails Club  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2023

**Attendance:** Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, Mark Klein, Michael Mallow, and Keith Meyers. Absent: Jay Green and Nate Laakeonen. Guest: Teresa Shoop.

Mark Roberts convened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

**Agenda:** John added money market fund to the agenda.

**Minutes:** Jason noted a minor grammatical error and moved approval of the March minutes. Mark Klein seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Keith had sent out the April minutes ahead of the annual meeting, but he will re-circulate those ahead of the July meeting to give everyone a chance to review them.

**Public Comment:** Teresa Shoop thanked the board members for all their work.

**Groomers Report:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** John reported that there is \$193,774 in cash and savings. We have squared up with Swedetown. They paid us and we paid Chassell. \$7,700 went to Yellowstone Trak Systems on the new Ginzu. A \$10,000 payment was made to Far North Trails on the Sky Way Trail. \$840 of revenue has come in on the Chain Drive with more to come. Final reconciliation is needed with the City of Hancock on additional pay for the groomers. We have paid for most of the signage. There is still \$2,000 in the budget and \$10,000 in trail improvements. Wayne asked John if there was any more money in the kiosk fund. John said no. John noted there is \$50,000 in the building fund. John indicated that he had earmarked \$1,000, but the city has used its money committed to this for something else. Wayne indicated an interest in painting it first as an early fall project. Mark Klein corrected Skyline to Sky Way. Wayne moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Jason seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Election of Officers:** Wayne moved approval of the current slate of officers (with Jay as President, Mark Roberts as Vice-President, John as Treasurer, and Keith as Secretary). As part of the discussion on the motion, it was noted that Carolyn Meingast declined her nomination to become a member of the board. Murphy indicated an interest in a leadership position on the board down the road. The motion was approved unanimously.

**FEMA:** John talked to Darren Oja. MJO is working four ten-hour days. Nothing yet on bridge footers and the boardwalk is in process. The Dam Hill area has a steeper drop than expected. John Pekkala was not overly concerned about it. John expressed concern about the space between the boards but noted that the wood is expected to shrink to a ¼" gap. He asked about the rock on Sidewinder. This is not expected to be a problem. The boardwalk is expected to take a couple more weeks and then MJO will be on to the bridges. Mark Klein expressed concern about what will be done differently on the bridges. John noted that they would be raising the footings

and lower the grade at the Guard Bridge. Mark Roberts indicated that there will be larger concrete footings. Jason noted the possibility of a point just downstream as an option. Wayne reminded the board about FEMA's position to put it back where it was. Mark Roberts discussed that the new Sisu Bridge will be the former Middle Bridge. John discussed debris clean-up. Jason asked about the bridge type. Mark Roberts indicated that they will be steel like the former Middle Bridge. John noted that the Hancock City Council is set to approve a payment to MJO.

**PHF Small Grant Proposal:** We were turned down.

**CFUP Grant:** We received \$2,500 (less than the \$3,500 asked for) toward the new 84" Ginzu. John indicated that Jay moved \$2,500 toward the Defender from the Ginzu Fund.

**\$10,000 Request from City:** The city has asked for budget which John has provided. This is still up in the air.

**Signs/Maps/PHF Grant:** Mark Roberts indicated that most of the signs are up, but winter maps are not up yet. Teresa suggested that it would be good to explain at the Kiosk how to read the maps. John noted that some of the signs are ambiguous.

**Summer Storage:** Mark Klein reported that the shed is built and will be delivered in the next week.

**Chain Drive:** Murphy reported that it went well. 124 signed up and everyone showed up and additional people came on the day of the event. Future trail running will feature both short and long courses.

**Bike Trails:** Brooks Road/High Point Road is in process with regular volunteer trail work both weekly and bi-weekly. There was some discussion about bumpy versus smooth trails. Teresa encouraged users to make improvements as they see the need. Murphy brought up having a reporting system like is used in Arkansas. John indicated that John Erickson had asked him who was in charge of the two vans that were at the cemetery. It was the junior mountain bike program at MTU.

**Membership Rate Structure:** This started with a discussion about walkers. Mark Roberts noted that they can be a member of the club if they want to support us. Mark Klein noted that it is a reasonable fee. The current fees are \$60 single/\$80 family. Mark Roberts asked if we saw a need to raise them. John noted that if Hancock backs away from its support that we should raise them. Jason asked about Swedetown rates. These are currently \$100 single and \$150 family. Keith recommended keeping the family rate under \$100. Murphy made the motion to increase the rates to \$75 single and \$95 family. John seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. This led to a discussion about keeping the day use suggested contribution at \$5 and utilizing a QR code as an additional means of contributing it. Mark Klein moved maintaining the \$5 day use amount and adding the QR code option. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Wuebben Easement:** John met two weeks ago with Doug Wuebben to help develop the club's understanding about the Wuebben's expectations regarding the easement.

**UTV Authorization:** This is regarding the purchase of the new Defender to replace the Kodiak. We will delay this until Jay gets back.

**E-Bike Policy:** This question came up from Arnie at Down Wind. Class I is okay. Mark Klein indicated that Copper Harbor just produced a policy focused on Class I. He suggested borrowing Marquette's or Copper Harbor which both limit to Class I. John moved to create a policy limiting e-bikes on our trails to Class I (pedal-assisted) and study the Copper Harbor policy. Jason seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Misner Letter:** Asked if she is interested in selling, we would be interested in buying.

**Sky Way Construction:** Mark Klein indicated that 3/10 of a mile is completed and looks great. They are more on the ridge now and out of the steep area.

**Basswood Bottoms:** John indicated that Dean reported that it is 80% complete. It is good for walking and within one hundred yards of High Point Road.

**Mowing:** Wolf and John have gotten it completed. No problems with the mower and it took three days.

**Ruby Marsh Culvert:** Wolf and Mark Roberts dug out the ditch, replaced the culvert, and covered it. It was mucky ground with little available fill. The tractor was very handy for this project. Terry and Sue Ellen are happy about it being done.

**Trail 17 Resurrection:** Since we will eventually have to get off of Tomasi Road, Mark Roberts and Wolf investigated this former trail which seems to be in good shape. We will have to tie in at both the top and bottom. We will flag it and determine what needs to be done. Keith expressed support for using the funding his family has donated for the bridge over Swedetown Creek that would be needed to make the connection with the New River Trail.

**Winter Walking Trails:** We need a place for people to walk their dogs. We need something from the Chalet that will keep them off the ski trails. Wayne suggested looking at old trails. John noted that the city is working on a deal with Mattila for a disc golf course.

**Hancock Trails Club:** John got acknowledgement from the state and should be final any day now. Logo, stickers, and decals – Murphy will talk to Chris Schmidt about working on the logo.

**Budget:** We will address this at our next meeting. Mark Klein announced that we will be receiving a \$40,000 donation from the Klugness Family Foundation in addition to the \$30,000 we have already received.

**Money Market Fund:** There was discussion about the higher rates currently available on short-term money and possibly moving funds to take advantage of these higher rates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.