

**Simon Kenton Pathfinders**  
**Minutes from Membership Meeting at Urbana Depot**  
**Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

The monthly membership meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Jim Cook.

**Attendance:** Jim Cook; Ward Lutz; Carmen Scott;; Ken Davis; Dave Jensen; Doug Crabill; David Martin; Joe Curran, Janine Albert Evans; Doug Chivington; Tamisha Matus; Pete Kenton

**Agenda:** Jim Cook noted additions to the agenda. Dave Jensen made the motion to accept the modified agenda as presented and Ward Lutz seconded this motion. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

**Announcements:**

a. Joe Curran reported that a consulting engineer, Burgess & Niple, had been hired through Logan Union Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to complete a feasibility study for the proposed bike trail extensions that would extend from the Village of St. Paris. This study is being provided at no cost to the village with planning dollars that ODOT provides to LUC as an RTPO. This study is anticipated to be completed by late February or early March. Joe Curran mentioned that community excitement is building regarding a trail in the St. Paris area, including with the Graham Local School District.

b. Jim Cook reported that the West Liberty trailhead/development of Sherman Ricketts Park is moving forward with a shelter house being planned for construction in 2022. The Village of West Liberty is also working on a TAP grant application for the Columbus Street Bridge.

**Reports:**

**President:** Jim Cook did not share anything additional with the group during the President's report section of the agenda.

**Secretary:** Carmen Scott made the motion to accept the October 2021 membership meeting minutes as prepared and Joe Curran seconded this motion. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

**Treasurer:** Janine Albert Evans, Treasurer presented the financial report for the organization. As of November 4, 2021, there was \$66,844.56 in the Operating Account, \$26,380.66 in the Northern Extension Account, and \$88,983.57 in the Board Designated Account for Future Maintenance. Furthermore, she reported that the net income year to date for 2021 was \$23,065.70. Lastly, she reported that final numbers from the SKP memorial bike ride were being compiled and reconciled. Ward Lutz made the motion to accept the financial report/Treasurer's report as prepared and Dave Jensen seconded this motion. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

**Website:** Doug Crabill reported that Tony Crabill was in the process of adding the most recent membership meeting minutes to the SKP website.

**Facebook:** No update provided by Jim Cook.

**Membership:** No updated provided by Nancy Lokai-Baldwin. However, Jim Cook reported that the 2022 membership forms and the 2021 end of year newsletter were being prepared and readied for printing/mailing.

**Maintenance Committee:**

- **Trail Counts as of 9/30/2021:** Ward Lutz provided a summary of trail count data for each of the trail counter locations. He noted the strong year over year trail usage growth in Logan County which he felt was indicative of the completed surface. Also, he stated that he felt that the counter just north of the Depot should be relocated to a location just north

of State Route 296. In addition, he felt that one additional counter could be utilized. Lastly, he noted that it was helpful to compare three full years of data in order to better note changes in trail usage and overall trail usage trends.

- **North Trail:** Doug Chivington reported on the progress being made by the contractor, Shane Long, in repairing trail damage that has been caused by rodents (chipmunks and/or groundhogs). He mentioned that there were as many as twenty-eight holes to repair with the focus being placed on the worst ones first. Doug Chivington reported that work was progressing, but he noted that the work is labor intensive and time consuming.
- **Urbana City:** No update provided by Dave Jensen as he had just returned from Florida. However, Jim Cook reported that the Champaign County Engineer's Office would like to complete some limb beaver work from Miami Street to Edgewood Avenue and on the upper trail of the Northern Extension during the winter months. Herbicide spraying has also been postponed by the Champaign County Engineer's Office until spring due to colder temperatures.
- **South Trail:** Ward Lutz reported that he mowed and ran the blower along the trail between State Route 55 and County Line Road. He also reported that he planned to run the blower another time soon from County Line Road to as far north as State Route 296.
- **Depot Area:** Jim Cook reported that Superior Painting and Restoration planned to start the soffit painting at the Depot on November 8, 2021 (weather permitting).

#### **Action Items:**

- **New Year's Day Annual Event:** Discussion took place regarding the annual potluck and walk/run for members at the Depot on New Year's Day. This event had been cancelled for January 1, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion centered around current COVID-19 trends, members being generally uncomfortable with a buffet, and the unknown COVID-19 trends in eight weeks. As a result, Doug Crabill made a motion to cancel this event on January 1, 2022 with the first regular meeting of the year for SKP to be held on Thursday, January 6, 2022.

#### **New Business:**

None.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Nominations for 2022 Officers:** Jim Cook and Carmen Scott reported that nominations for 2022 officers will be sought soon.
- **Update on Crack Sealing:** Jim Cook reported that the Champaign County Engineer's Office had completed the planned crack sealing work on time and under budget. He also shared that the Madison County Engineer's Office has special equipment to address roots that are damaging the trail surface, and Champaign County and Madison County are discussing whether this equipment can be utilized in Champaign County.
- **2021 Simon Kenton Bike Tour:** Jim Cook reported that final accounting was underway. Also, he reported that the RunSignUp portal had worked well with some lessons to be applied for next year.
- **ODNR Grant Application (Trail Blower):** Jim Cook reported ODNR had not made any final decisions regarding the grant application for a trail blower.

#### **New Business:**

None.

**Open Forum:**

Jim Cook reported that Northern Trail volunteer, Pat Dodds, had recently passed away unexpectedly. Doug Crabill suggested a presentation by SKP to the Urbana Rotary Club.

**Adjournment:** Pete Kenton made a motion to adjourn and Dave Jensen seconded this motion. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Doug Crabill, SKP Vice President for Diane Burroughs, SKP Secretary.