



## Simon Kenton Pathfinders



### Minutes from Membership Meeting at Urbana Depot

Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The monthly meeting was called to order by President Jim Cook at 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** Dave Jensen, Doug Crabill, Tamisha Matus, Ward Lutz, Joe Curran, Nikki Sizemore, Dave Martin, Janine Albert Evans, Carmen Scott, Steve Cayot, Dorothy Case, Dave Case, Jim Cook, and Dianne Burroughs.

**Additions/Corrections to Agenda:** Motion to add “St. Paris Trail Update” to Announcements, 4d was made by Doug Crabill, seconded by Dave Jensen, and it passed unanimously.

#### **Announcements:**

- a. Repainting of murals: Nikki reported that the vandalism/spray painting of the mural on the Gwynne Street bridge can't be just touched up. Instead, she and the Stewart family will be repainting a picture of the B-25 “Champaign Gal” there. At the Depot underpass, they'll be painting a picture of the Lincoln Train. Many thanks to Nikki, Phillip, Holly, and Kenny.
- b. West Liberty Trailhead/Ricketts Park update: The shelter house is not quite finished yet, due to OHP students now out of school. Our bike repair station was delivered last Wednesday, and we'll install it when the concrete has cured (in another week) and the roof trim completed. The dedication is on Wednesday, June 29, at 2:30, which will include a parade, food trucks, giveaways, etc.
- c. Trail events by other groups: June 4 “Naomi's Heart” Charity 5K and June 5 OSU 5K.
- d. St. Paris Trail: St. Paris was awarded \$100,000 in state capital improvement funds for the Pony Wagon multi-use trail, which it will use to get started on land acquisition. Joe Curran reported that \$1.9 million will be needed for design and engineering in the future. A meeting will/should be scheduled between the St. Paris village council, Champaign County commissioners, LUC, Rails to Trails, and SKP.

#### **Reports:**

- a. **President:** none
- b. **Secretary:** A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Dorothy Case, it was seconded by Dave Jensen, and it passed unanimously.
- c. **Treasurer:** A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report as presented by Doug Crabill, it was seconded by Dave Case, and it passed unanimously. Janine made a motion to form a search committee, headed by Doug Crabill, to find a new treasurer starting in 2023. Dave Martin seconded it, and it passed unanimously. Janine asked that we include [SKPathfinders@outlook.com](mailto:SKPathfinders@outlook.com) to our SKP group emails. Also, Janine and Jim expressed a need for 500 more security envelopes, the purchase of which does not require a vote.
- d. **Website:** Tony Crabill has been downloading our meeting minutes to our website regularly.
- e. **Facebook:** No complaints
- f. **Memberships:** No new information

**g. Maintenance:**

1. **North Trail:** The trailside was mowed a week ago, and the county to spray any day now. The hogweed and hemlock are out of control, but the spray should handle it. The railroad hasn't sprayed yet; they usually do so in the summer. Turtles are laying eggs or chipmunks are digging holes in the trail. Carmen further reported that vandals have destroyed two of our bike/signs and a bench plaque.
2. **Urbana City:** Dave Jensen reported that a tree covered in poison ivy is down on the trail and that several trees are leaning dangerously. The county will be informed of it, but it may be that AES will take care of it.
  - a. Cleanup by UMC (June 5): The Rev. Chris Dinnell and @30 Methodist parishioners have volunteered to pick up trash on the trail from the Depot to North Main as a monthly community service project.
  - b. Adopt-a-Trail: Orbis Corporation wants to adopt cleanup of the trail from Miami Street to Edgewood Avenue (maybe to Route 55) twice a month in warm weather. In these cases, we'll pay for two Adopt-a-Trail signs, including the logos of SKP and Orbis (which is now being designed). Weidmann may want to do the same.
3. **South Trail:** This trail gets mowed every two weeks. Dave and Dorothy Case are starting the mowing in June and Ward will do it in July. Boom mowing will be done in August, just before the bike tour.
4. **Depot area:**
  - a. Flower pot committee: Some deer are eating our perennials. A garden is being planned for the mulched area by the front door.
  - b. Repairs/painting: Superior Painting did a good job on painting the soffits (a city expense). Tuck pointing is needed on the building as the sandstone is deteriorating.
  - c. Duct cleaning: This will cost us \$562, but work can't be started until the alarm that keeps going off is deactivated.

**Action Items:** none

**New Business:** none

**Old Business:**

- a. ODNR Blower Grant update: We were not awarded this grant, and Jim was told that this is rarely given for equipment requests. Jim is looking for a used or rebuilt one, as it is needed by this Fall.
- b. Seal Coating of trail update: The Strasser Company has stopped doing mastic work, maybe due to problems they've had with the mastic adhering to the trail. Clark county paid \$196,000 plus 10% for this mastic. We're getting an estimate from Biorestore, but this product is very slick and therefore dangerous. We're also talking with the county about fog sealing. Jim is looking at the costs. It's now been 7 years since it was last done, but the recommendation is to be done every 5-6 years...and some areas have never been done. A grant is to be applied for.
- c. Bike Tour:
  1. Sponsorships: So far, we have received \$16,955 in sponsor donations! Another large

donation has been given, but, since it was not specifically designated for the bike tour, it will go into the general fund.

2. Timelines: Registration brochures will go to print in a week.
3. Bike routes: We are still hoping for the routes to go west/northwest this year, but no timelines are been established for when county is doing chip sealing on the roads.
4. Food trucks: The Farmer's Daughter and La Granja Mexican will be supplying food to bikers, in addition to The Depot Coffeehouse.
5. Save the Date flyers: More flyers were passed out for distribution.
6. Young's Jersey Dairy Ride (Saturday, September 10 at The Depot): They will have a couple of hundred riders here, on the day before our bike tour.
7. "Spirit of Urbana" train ride (Saturday, September 10 at The Depot): This train will go from Washington Courthouse to Urbana, with shuttle buses taking people from the Depot to downtown Urbana for shopping and dining. This event is also on the day before our bike tour.

**Open Forum:**

- a. The county will be spot-spraying for woody growth.
- b. Union County Parks and Trails have prioritized connecting up with the Cardinal Trail.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm by Joe Curran, seconded by Ward Lutz, and it passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot.**

Respectfully submitted by Dianne Burroughs, Secretary