

Simon Kenton Pathfinders

Minutes from Membership meeting at Urbana Depot

Thursday, 04 January 2024 at 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Cook at 7:10 pm following a social to celebrate the New Year.

Attendance: Jim Cook, Teresa Cook, Dave Martin, David Case, Dave Jensen, Doug Crabill, Rob Dwyer, Tamisha Matus, Mark Kauffman, Patty Kauffman, Jill McKelvey, Linda Vernon, Beth Ricketts Lantz, Dee Ricketts, Ronald Ricketts, Steve Cayot, Brian Newman, Steve Bohl, Nancy Roberts, Allen Wilbur, Kent Myers, Jayne Griffith, and Dorothy Case. Folks in attendance introduced themselves to group.

Additions/Corrections to the Agenda: Motion made by Dave Case and seconded by Dave Jensen to approve the agenda as written and it passed unanimously.

Announcements: Jim informed group that today after approximately 12 ½ years, the individual who killed Lou Taylor (who was an avid cyclist, donor to Simon Kenton Pathfinders) was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Volunteer of the Year Awards were presented to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond for the SKP.

Steve Bohl – One of the 17 charter members of the Pathfinders. He was on the original finance committee and has helped with numerous projects and he and his family have been main sponsor for our annual bike tour in memory of his late wife, Betsy.

Steve Cayot – Jumped right in to volunteering after retiring from Honda. Steve is valuable volunteer on North Trail maintenance crew and does whatever is needed to help out such as mowing, walnut patrol, and more.

Mark Kauffman – Valuable maintenance volunteer on North Trail. He is one who identifies a problem and addresses it without being asked to do so. Mark will work on mowing, trail trimming and more so whatever trail needs.

Village of West Liberty – Award was presented to all the West Liberty folks who have volunteered to enhance trailhead and have water, a bike repair station, porta johns, landscaping and a beautiful butterfly mural for cyclists and tourists to enjoy. Mayor Jill McKelvey stated that it was a partnership effort with the Ricketts Family, Mary Rutan Hospital and Simon Kenton Pathfinders. In addition, she stated that future plans include adding electricity, phone & bike charging stations, a flagpole, permanent restrooms and up to 4 temporary camping spots.

The Ricketts Family – Sherman Ricketts was the former village marshal of West Liberty and he was killed in 1962 in the line of duty. As a memorial to him, the Ricketts family has enhanced the trailhead through being involved in the design, and funding of the Sherman Ricketts Park as well as construction of a beautiful shelter area there.

Reports:

- a. President
 - a. 2024 membership cards and newsletters: Jim stated that the items have been mailed out and if have not received one to email him and provide address to send to.
 - b. 2023 highlights:
 - i. Most ever bike tour registrations with 224 (in person and virtual) and \$35,575 income from the tour
 - ii. Purchased new Ventrac mower (\$27,700) for the South trail
 - iii. Sale of old Ventrac and blower for \$10,300.
 - iv. Revision completed of Simon Kenton Pathfinders' By-laws and were approved unanimously in December 2023.
 - v. Finance committee was restated and a legacy foundation fund was set up for long term maintenance of trail.
 - vi. YMCA trailhead partnership with bike repair station there funded 50/50 with YMCA.
 - vii. Draft plan in place for East Lawn by-pass (not necessarily a SKP project) that to be in honor of Lynn Geuy by his daughter and grand-daughter.
 - viii. Draft plan in place for pouring overlay on path between Urbana Airport and Carter Ave, Bellefontaine.
 - ix. County engineers have approved to install in 2025, safety flashers at Hickory Grove Rd intersection and at every rural road crossing.
 - x. Miami Street rebuild – although not a SKP project, it has added 30 some parking spaces on Miami Street and a turn lane to make safer.
 - xi. Recognized outgoing Vice President, Doug Crabill and outgoing board member Dave Martin.
- b. Secretary/approval of minutes from both November and December 2023 (motion made by Dave Case seconded by Rob Dwyer and motion passed).
- c. Treasurer's Report: Hard copies of Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison and SKP preliminary budget 2024 available for those in attendance.
 - a. Approval of November 2023 financial reports. Doug Crabill made motion to approve treasurer report, seconded by Brian Newman and motion passed.
 - b. Approval of preliminary 2024 operating budget. Rob discussed highlights of the budget and questions were answered. Steve Cayot made motion to

approve preliminary budget for 2024, Dave Jensen seconded motion and motion passed unanimously.

- d. Website – Doug Crabill stated that he last updated it in November and also stated that he will continue to be responsible for the website.
- e. Facebook – Tamisha Matus stated that she had posted information about meeting tonight and making a design change to posts.
- f. Membership committee – no report in Nancy Lokai Baldwin’s absence
- g. Maintenance Committee Updates – Jim Cook stated that Ward Lutz and Dave Jensen have been using blower on trail and will be training Steve Cayot on use of it
 - a. North Trail – Steve Cayot stated that the trail looks good with exception of a few critter holes
 - b. Urbana City Trails – Dave Jensen stated that all ok at this time
 - c. South Trail – no report
 - d. Depot areas
 - i. Roof & doors – Jim Cook stated that the Depot roof (approximately 20 year old) has some leaks and city will be addressing it with new roof in the spring. In addition there are door lock issues that need repaired and the SKP will be responsible for those costs.
 - ii. Landscaping, etc – Jim Cook stated that this past year Steve Flora Landscaping did much work to clean up area with some tree and shrub trimming/removal and they donated 50% of the costs to SKP. In addition, Mike Conley with Class Act donated his mowing services for the Depot area and potentially he will do so again in 2024.
- h. Other – Winter maintenance
 - a. Boom mowing completed both North and South – Jim Cook stated that Boom mowing was completed last week with area above depot yet to be done. Due to equipment breakdown, hope that it will be done by spring. The entire trail is to be blown off and then winter maintenance will be emergency things with mowing starting back up in spring. Dave Jensen said that he would check out the north trail tomorrow to see if needs blown off.

Action Items: No action items reported

New Business: Capital Budget & Strategic Community Investment Funds request – Jim Cook and Doug Crabill informed group of a grant request in process to the state as they have large surplus and have set aside \$700 million of this surplus to give back to local communities. Last year it was decided to pave the North trail so at this time the Logan and Champaign County Engineers are working behind the scenes and a design engineer is putting together a study for asphalt paving and to get report later in January that will include costs. At this

time do not know how much will costs, how many dollars might receive and if any portion of it will be matching. The Logan County Commissioners have said that they will be the fiscal agent for any funds that are received.

Old Business: Bike Tour planning for 2024 – Jim Cook stated that the date for the tour is to be Sunday, 08 September 2024 and set up will be the day before. Dr Steve Bohl has said that he will be sponsor for the bike tour event for 2024. A planning committee will be set up in near future.

Election of 2024 Officers – Jim Cook and Doug Crabill discussed election and change to slate of officers due to update of Bylaws in December 2023. With this change there will be a Past President, President, President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and Board of Directors (with 3 year terms). At this time, there are no nominees for the positions of President or President Elect. Dianne Burroughs has stated that she will be willing to continue as secretary for an additional 2 years. Dave Martin’s tenure on board has ended and he will not be continuing. Dorothy Case has 1 more year on board and Tamisha Matus has 2 more years. Brian Newman has accepted nomination for a 3-year board position. With no additional nominations and no volunteers for positions, Dave Martin made motion to close nominations, Tamisha Matus seconded motion and motion passed. Jim Cook stated that the board would meet soon to discuss other options due to open President and President-elect positions. A couple options to consider would be creating a paid Executive Director position (however that would take a large part of budget) and if can not get officers to fill roles, there is a dissolution article in the By-laws for consideration. Tamisha Matus made motion to elect Dianne Burroughs as secretary (2-year term), and Brian Newman as board member (3-year term), Rob Dwyer seconded motion and motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum to address anything else: Jim Cook expressed appreciation to Doug Crabill as outgoing Vice President and Dave Martin as outgoing from SKP board and thanked them for all their time serving on board.

Adjournment: Tamisha Matus made motion to adjourn, Brian Newman seconded motion and meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, 01 February 2024 at 7pm at the Depot