

**Simon Kenton Pathfinders**  
**Minutes from Membership Meeting @ Urbana Depot**  
**Thursday, February 1, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Cook at 7:02 p.m.

**Attendance:** Ward Lutz, David W. Jensen, Dave Martin, Steve Cayot, Gary Bradshaw, Mark Garber, Dorothy Case, Teresa Cook, Rick Bednarki, Tamisha Matus, Jim Cook, Nikki Sizemore, Doug Crabill, Robert J. Dwyer, Brian Newman, and Dianne Burroughs.

**Agenda:** Two additions were proposed to the Announcements: a) This day in history, and b) St. Paris Bike Trail update. A motion to approve the agenda as corrected was made by Dave Jensen, seconded by Dorothy Case, and it passed unanimously.

**Announcements:**

- a) This day in history: On February 1, 2018, the Simon Kenton Trail was named the best bike trail in Ohio by Ohio Magazine readers.
- b) St. Paris Bike Trail update: (Officially named the Pony Wagon Bike Trail) The Friends of the Pony Wagon Bike Trail have become a 501c3 nonprofit organization under the leadership of Eric Holbgewoks, President.

**Reports:**

**Past President:** There are still two vacancies on the SKP Board - President Elect and President. Jim Cook is searching for members to serve on our six committees: Finance, Lease, Membership, Bike Tour, Nominations, and Maintenance. The SKP 2024 newsletter and membership cards were mailed out last month. If anyone hasn't yet renewed their membership, additional forms were available at the meeting.

**Secretary:** A motion to accept the January 4 membership meeting minutes was made by Tamisha, seconded by Brian Newman, and it passed unanimously. Dianne Burroughs thanked Dorothy Case for being the substitute secretary at this last meeting.

**Treasurer:** Rob Dwyer shared the Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparison and Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison reports, noting that our year-end financial report doesn't appear like our usual monthly reports. Our year-end report must be converted from cash basis statements to accrual. Bill Boy, CPA, is working on our 990-tax form. A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Ward Lutz, seconded by Dave Jensen, and it passed unanimously.

**Website:** Doug Crabill reported that the website needs a couple of updates.

**Facebook:** Tamisha Matus and Nolan Conley will be meeting next week to update to plan our Celebrate Trails Day activities for April 27.

**Membership:** No report was available.

**Maintenance:**

- North Trail: Steve Cayot cleaned sticks off the trail, and Rick Bednarki marked irregularities on the trail by circling eroding edges and sinkholes.
- Urbana City Trail: Dave Jensen had nothing new to report.
- South Trail: Dorothy Case had nothing new to report. Ward Lutz and Dave Jensen asked for the names of volunteers who are willing to be trained on the Blower. Blowing off the 23 miles of the North & South Trails takes @6-½ hours to complete. Interested people must have a truck with a 2" ball and 4 electrical hookups. Ward reported that the data from our 10 trail counters must be collected every three months. This collection takes @6-½ hours, and Ward is looking for a volunteer to help with this, too. Tamisha Matus expressed interest in volunteering. This trail count data is good information when we apply for grants. Doug Crabill, Ward, and Tamisha will be meeting to discuss options. Refresher training on the Ventrac should be set for March, in preparation for the busy season.
- Depot area: Jim Cook will be replacing the Depot's door locks.

**Action Items:** None

**New Business:**

- a) Capital Budget & Strategic Community Investment Funds updates: The state has set aside \$700 million of a state surplus to give back to local communities. Logan & Champaign County Engineers are working with a design firm, Burgess & Niple, to study the 16 miles of our trail, from Urbana to Bellefontaine, that needs hot mix surfacing. This is projected to cost @\$2-12 million. Part of the grant might be a local match requirement. Resolutions/letters of support have been sent from Champaign and Logan County Commissioners, and Urbana, West Liberty, and Bellefontaine city commissioners are working on them now. The LUC, Port Authority and Logan County strongly support this. This grant should be awarded before July 1, 2024.
- b) Celebrate Trails Day (April 27): Tamisha Matus and Nolan Conley will be meeting next week to plan activities.
- c) Spring Cleanup: Usually this is scheduled for a week or two before the Celebrate Trails Day, but Tamisha suggested that we could hold it on the same day. No date was set.
- d) Volunteer group: Nikki Sizemore reported that the Urbana High School Senior class was interested in doing community service on Friday, April 26. It was suggested that trash pickup and brush removal on the city trails or painting over vandalized overpasses would be beneficial.

**Old Business:**

- a. Finalizing updates to new Ventrac: Jim Cook reported the need for us to purchase a 3-in-1 adapter & 3 pt. hitch for the tractor. It would provide a quick attachment to the trailer hitch and avoid damaging the trail or getting hung up. The cost would be @\$3,060.70. A motion to buy the 3-in-1 adaptor was made by Rob Dwyer, seconded by Brian Newman, and it passed, with 14 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstaining.
- b. Bike Tour planning for 2024: The date is **Sunday, September 8**, with setup at the Depot on Saturday, September 7. Dianne Burroughs reported on three food trucks that were willing and

available to serve us: La Granja Mexican, Flying Pepper Mexican, and Wilsons Rollin Shmoke. She is still waiting to hear back from last year's food truck, Fresh Harvest, and a new truck, Raging Wood Fired Pizza. A motion to ask La Granja to serve us was made by Dave Jensen, seconded by Tamisha Matus, and it passed unanimously. It was decided we would wait until our March meeting to choose the second food truck. A bike tour review and planning meeting was set for **Thursday, February 8, at 7:00 at the Depot.**

**Open Forum:** Dave Jensen has been replacing our list bulbs in the Depot basement with LEDs, which will last longer.

**Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was made at 8:44 p.m. by Brian Newman, seconded by Tamisha Matus, and it passed without a vote.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot.**

Respectfully submitted by Dianne Burroughs, Secretary.