



Board Meeting – Minutes
11 July 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Jayne Snyder Trails Center

Meeting **called to order** by President Roger Heinrich at 7:02 p. m. Opened with a question about favorite vacations.

In attendance (20)				Absent (10)	
Arp	S. Dunbar	Kimble	Stevens	Baker	Griffin
Baumeister	Greene	Noe	B. Torell	Burd	Henning
Bentrup	Hammer	Ringlein	M. Torell	Coble	Hershey
Ron Case	Heinrich	Rosenboom	Warren	Collier	Jerke
C. Dunbar	Hirsch	Scoby	Wehrbein	Godfrey	Sonderup

Minutes

Stevens moved and Case seconded to approve the June 13 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Warren had a family commitment. Report covered by Hirsch. Currently \$38,881. 20 in the account. These dollars include Trail Trek profits which will need to be transferred to NTF and we also have a commitment for the printing of the updated maps. Hirsch pointed out that a Screen Ink bill for Trail Trek was paid twice and the adjustment will be made at a later date.

Committee Updates

Administrative Committee

14th & Old Cheney Roundabout

Hirsch explained to the Board that he and Arp attended the meeting on the 14th & Old Cheney roundabout design. The construction on the change will begin in 2020. Under the current proposal the trail will stay where it is today and will remain a grade crossing. Hirsch explained that it would be better for the trail to go underground at that crossing, but at this time it is not part of the plan. This change to the intersection will cause Old Cheney to be busier. Arp said that if we want something changed we need to take action now.

Arp motioned and Hammer seconded that GPTN draft a letter to Sara Hartzell to request a tunnel be added to the plans for the new 14th Street & Old Cheney Rd project. Motion carried.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Hirsch discussed the drafting of an MOU, along with Heinrich, between GPTN and NTF. The document has been reviewed by John Blumer, NTF president, and Nancy Loftis,

NTF Board member, with minor changes being discussed. Hirsch is asking the Board to take home the MOU and review it for discussion at the August Board meeting.

Due to a number of new Board members Hirsch decided to briefly explain the relationship between GPTN and NTF. NTF is the 501(C) 3 designation for GPTN so that we can raise money as a tax deductible contribution to the trails. Hammer has had a long relationship with NTF and manages the donations that come into GPTN, but are designated to a particular trail project. NTF was formed before GPTN.

The new accounting firm for NTF doesn't provide a lot of feedback as compared with what we received in the past and this has caused some communication issues. The MOU will set some simple expectations on documentation and communication between the two organizations. This is necessary since the funds from GPTN are about half the funds held by NTF.

Zoo plans

Hirsch attended a meeting at Park & Rec to discuss the changes proposed by the zoo. The plans as they stand will have a parking lot surrounding the Rock Island trail. Arp talked about the option of a bypass for the trail to help with this issue. Members of the Board are disappointed by this option due to the work that was put in to get the current trail approved and built.

Bentrup has been involved with the discussion through BPAC and has already drafted a letter to Glen Johnson at the Parks & Recreation over the issue of the Zoo not consulting the public about these changes before the plans were drawn up. These are public spaces which should have public input. The design and planning went on without talking to other groups that would be affected by these decisions.

Hirsch and others will stay on this topic and continue to report back to the Board. Hirsch encouraged as many people to attend the meeting as possible.

Fundraising

Pioneers Park Phase III

Bentrup referred to the GPTN Fundraising Obligations sheet that was passed out. The \$60,000 obligation that we made to the Pioneers Park Phase III project will be due this fall. We currently have \$19,215 left to raise to meet our obligation. Trail Trek fund will be directed toward this project and will hopefully knock this down by \$10,000. This would leave just over \$9,000 left.

Murdock

The Murdock Trail commitment is for \$250,000. Give to Lincoln Day was a success coming in at \$23,453 and with the match from the Jayne Snyder fund we should be at approximately \$38,000. These dollars have been committed to the Murdock trail along with donations coming in from the Community Services Fund in the amount of \$6,000.

N Street Project

Dollars were left over from the fundraising for the project. \$10,420 has been moved back into the Jayne Snyder fund to be designated to other future projects.

Trail Counters

Bentrup reminded the Board that we still have an obligation to pay for additional counters in the amount of \$7,000. This was approved by the Board in August 2015. This could be paid out of the GPTN general fund once we have an idea on the balance after the maps are printed and the Trail Trek funds are moved out. We could also pay for this out of the Trail Amenities fund that is held by NTF. Kimble asked if GPTN was paying the entire cost of the counters and what are they used for? Bentrup explained that most of the funding is coming from the Partnership for Healthy Living that received a grant to pay for 2/3 the cost. The information from these counters are being used as part of grant proposals.

Government Relations

No report at this time.

Public Relations

Dunbar discussed the trails app that is in development with the City and that a beta of the app should be available for the August Board meeting. The developers have taken into consideration suggestions from the Board.

The PR group will have a booth at the Prairie Jazz Festival on August 27 at Pioneers Park.

Dunbar read a great editorial from the June 26 Lincoln Journal Star from a visitor from Minnesota that not only praised the trails system in Lincoln, but remarked on how nice everyone was on the trail and how almost all the bikers said hi as they road by. Noe will try to get this placed on the website.

Trails Use & Activities Committee

Murdock Fundraiser

The committee along with Hammer are putting on a fundraiser for the Murdock trail. The event will be August 25 at the home of former Mayor Don Wesley. Isles will be catering the event. At this time there is a commitment for former Governor Mike Johanns to attend as he was the mayor when the trail was dedicated. Invites will go out two weeks prior to the event. Hammer thanked Greene and the committee for the help they are giving for this event.

Pollinator Garden

B. Torell discussed having GPTN provide a letter of support to his Vintage Heights neighborhood association that is building a pollinator garden that will be next to the Billy Wolff trail. This is not the first project for the association. So far they have planted 65 trees. The neighborhood is not asking for money, but just a letter of support as part of a grant they are application.

B. Torell moved and M. Torell seconded a motion to have GPTN write a letter of support for the pollinator garden that will be adjacent to the Billy Wolff trail.

Discussion regarding the involvement of GPTN in this kind of endeavor is outside the pattern of what the organization usually supports. Getting involved in a neighborhood activity opens up the Board to more requests that we may not be able to support.

Motion carried.

M2M

Noe asked for members of the Board to consider helping out with this year's M2M race that occurs on October 8. GPTN has committed to providing volunteers for the 262nd street exchange point, the Shindig at the end of the race and an exchange point coordinator. M2M will pay GPTN \$1,750 for our volunteer help. Noe will pass around a sign-up sheet at the August meeting.

Trail Trek

Noe started a discussion about the Trail Trek event. Everyone thought the event went well in 2016. Funding was down. Not all the bills have come through, but overall just over \$14,000 was raised with registrations and an additional \$8,000 from sponsors. Registrations came in at \$17,609 in 2015. Baumeister said that as a bike shop industry sales are down this year. The speculation is that this is caused by too much inventory. The industry as a whole is trying to dump inventory. It might just be a cycle right now. M. Torell noted that the Journal Star has gone through a lot of changes this year and she remarked that the online advertising for this event was down. Final numbers and approval for moving funds to NTF will take place at the August meeting.

Hirsch asked Board members to consider chairing Trail Trek in 2017 as Jim Carveth has decided to step down from the position. Meetings for this event won't start up again until October. Commitment is to meetings once a month. Many of the pieces to this event are handled by committee members.

Finance Committee

No report at this time.

Special Committee Reports

Trail Maps

Bentrup reported that the maps are at the printer and should be available in August.

Other Discussion Topics

Hammer presented the Board with a funding opportunity to restore the bike sculpture at the A street crossing on the MoPac trail. This sculpture was specifically designed for the trail in memory of Howard Mitchell, MD that was killed in a bike accident. The sculpture needs a little TLC. The cost is \$1,220.

Hammer motioned and Case seconded for GPTN to give fund to refurbish the Howard Mitchell, MD memorial bike on the MoPac trail. Motion carried.

Next GPTN Board meeting will be August 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center.

Adjournment at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dena Noe, Vice President