



GREAT PLAINS TRAILS NETWORK  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday October 10, 2016, 7 PM  
Jayne Snyder Trail Center

Meeting called to order by President Roger Hirsch at 7:00 PM

**MEMBERS:**

**Present: 21**

Baker	Coble	Wehrbein
M. Torell	Greene	Messerer
Warren	Arp	Hammer
Rosenboom	Bentrup	Ringlein
Griffin	Noe	Hirsch
B. Torell	Heinrich	Jerke
Sonderup	C Dunbar	S Dunbar

**Absent: 10**

Case	Godfrey	Stevens
Burd	Hersey	Scoby
Collier	Baumeister	Kimble
Henning		

**Minutes from September 2016 – Hirsch**

**Baker moves and Coble seconds motion to approve the September minutes. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer’s Report – Warren**

Typical monthly income and expenses. Only significant expense was for map printing. Graphic work at Agent expensed in July. Nice sponsorship support. Donations covered 65% design and printing.

**President’s Report – Hirsch**

Heinrich and Hirsch working with Nebraska Trails Foundation (NTF) on a written agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to outline the relationship between GPTN and NTF and our expectation of the management of our deposited dollars. Loftis and Blummer will meet on 10/25 with Heinrich and Hirsch. They will hammer out the MOU taking into consideration some suggestions by the NTF Board. The plan is to have the GPTN Board review and consider approval at the November meeting.

Hirsch pointed out that we still don’t have NTF reports. The entity that does their reports doesn’t have the information they need. Hirsh requested the Board consider changing the monthly meetings to later in the month because it would help with getting NTF reports. Also, this change would help out our PBAC folks as they meeting the next day after the Board at 7:00 a.m. Practical factors that make this better for the committee. This would not require a bylaws change. Just need six meetings a year and the annual meeting. Meet between 8-14 depending on when the Monday falls. Parks likes this because 7 a.m. PBAC after this meeting. Hirsch will set meetings starting in January as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

Hirsch presented Ann Ringlein a 3<sup>rd</sup> place award in the National Bike Challenge in the female category. Top honors for a Nebraskan is great. Way to go Ann!

## **Vice-President's Report – Noe**

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Fundraising Committee** - Bentrup doesn't have the report on the fundraising obligations since no report from NTF this month. Bentrup brought up that the City will be buying trail counters that GPTN approved funding for almost a year ago. The fundraising committee has determined that the funding should come out of the amenities fund held at NTF. The counters will be placed on the Helen Boosalis, Billy Wolff and two on the MoPac. Prairie Corridor/Pioneers Phase III is complete and GPTN will need to pay. The projected cost and amount committed was \$60,000. According to Parks & Recreation the cost will be closer to \$50,000. Fundraising should meet these needs when the bill arrives.

Wilderness Park south bridge and the timeline for completion was discussed. The request was to have Hirsch draft a letter to support for the city to continue working on this project. According to the city website construction is planned for 2019 - 2020. Write a letter of support. Board members pointed out that the bridge is on the long-range transportation plan, which means it will happen. The plan is for the next 24 years. It was pointed out that 3% of the transportation budget will cover trails, but the feedback from an online survey put out by the city, the community would want 9% to fund bikes, 16% to trails overall. Most cities the funding is higher and Nebraska is falling behind. Elaine expressed that the Wilderness south bridge construction can move up on the list if we have money. Once we have the money they can do it any time. The letter needs to express to the city that they need to apply for the grant. Elaine asked that Sara be informed. We need \$15,000 and should be able to do this. Roger has the letter completed and will send after this discussion.

The railroad bridge was discussed. Roger Figard president of the Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) met with Sara from Parks and it was very favorable. No funds 2016-2017 was allocated for this. The project is listed on the 2018-2019 CIP. Prove we have some money then it could be moved up. Warren expressed getting the project on the CIP is the big hurdle and with funding it should move forward. This is not for public announcement.

Karen talked about the United Way campaign kicking off and how important it is for us to encourage people to give to NTF through the Community Services Fund. Large companies and Federal Government departments are kicking off their campaigns.

Heinrich asked if GPTN sends a letter for end of year giving. He also talked about limited options on NTF site for donation designation and is there a way to designate for more than one project. Noe will contact Cahoon to change the designation off a list from Bentrup.

**Trail Trek** – GPTN has been running the event for the Lincoln Journal Star (LJS) for 14 years. Hirsch informed the Board that LJS called two weeks ago and they are dropping their event sponsorship. They offered their files. We don't have a major sponsor now. We will need to call a meeting of the committee and have a heart to heart about the future of the event. Arp expressed that he doesn't think LJS is a deal breaker. They have decreased advertising space and social media is where we can increase our riders. We don't get money from LJS, but will need to replace graphics and printing for promo signs etc.

**Finance Committee** – no report

**PR Committee** – Dunbar reported the trail app is nearly finished. The newest version works better than the one we received in June.

**Trail Use and Activities** – Greene reported that they are working on the Christmas party which will be December 12 at the clubhouse in Hirsch’s development. Greene will pass out a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

Mary Torell – trail signage – what is our roll in getting signs on the trail. For example on Old Cheney – near Edgewood – many of those major entrances into shopping centers don’t indicate that there is a trail going through the entrance and that people should be aware. Board thought it would be best to bring it to the attention of Public Works. Old Cheney is just one example of many that could be a hazard. Torell would like the sign to give an alert to drivers that they should be paying attention for bikes. PBAC is involved in some of this. A suggestion was made to inform traffic and engineering. There was mention of research on sign clutter and it is showing that people are not paying attention. Parks indicated that the city has rules about trail signs etc. One rule is that trail signs need to be green. A suggestion was made to send a map with these issues to the Department of Roads. A suggestion was to include police data on accidents or other issues in these areas along with the maps...that will get some attention.

Hirsch covered a new opportunity called the BIG JUMP. He received an email from Kelly in the planning department about a new project called the Big Jump. This is part of a project with PeopleForBikes and the goal is to double or triple the number of bike riders by 2020. PeopleForBikes and national partners are providing funding for the project so local funding is not a requirement to participate. This support package and services offered as benefits of joining The Big Jump Project is valued at \$250,000 annually per community.

Local funding is suggested because it has shown more success in reaching the program goals. The level of financial involvements may vary community by community, but they are suggesting local funders participate at \$50,000 per year over three years - a total investment of \$150,000. Local funding partners are welcome to contribute at higher levels. At this point they are just asking for a letter of support, but not funding. If we are part of this program they will look at how we build the trails and may suggest changes.

**Karen Griffin motioned and Mary Torell seconded a motion to have Hirsch send a letter to support this project. Motion carried.**

**Government Relations** – No report.

### **Announcements**

Bike Share proposal is due back Oct 19.

National Bike Challenge – Lincoln and Nebraska were #1. We made a big jump last year. Over the five years of the program we have been #1 or #2. Noe will get some information on the website.

Recreational Trails Adv Committee – no projects in Lincoln

Terry Genrich – 10/20 will be his retirement party

Hirsch pointed out the to the Board that we will need to start an Awards committee and an Annual Meeting Committee. The Annual Meeting will be at the Heart Hospital. Mary Torell said she would chair the event again. Also be thinking if you would like to serve on the Nominations Committee – we need a slate of officers.

Griffin brought up that they didn’t have the volunteers they needed at the Shindig for M2M. They tried to do shifts, but unfortunately some didn’t show up so they were really short at the end. Also the event

lasted longer than planned due to runners about 30 minutes behind due to the wind. Griffin wondered if we needed a volunteer coordinator as a position on the Board.

**Adjournment** at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Dena Noe, GPTN Vice President