
GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Meeting Summary

July 14, 2016, 9:00am

Tettegouche State Park – Visitor Center Conference Room



Welcome/Introductions

- ❑ Approval of May 12, 2016 meeting summary – Motion by Dan Cruikshank/Bruce Martinson. Carries.
- ❑ In attendance: Bill Blank (President), Gary Brumberg, Dan Cruikshank, Rod Garver, Anne McKinsey (Communications), Bruce Martinson, Chad Pierson (Treasurer), Mark Rudningen (MnDNR Trail Coordinator), Michelle Pierson (Executive Director, ARDC), Ginny Storlie (Cook Co. Commissioner), Bob Nesheim, Carol Krynski
- ❑ Agendas and meeting summaries posted here: www.arrowheadplanning.org/ggta

Committee Business

1. President's Report

- Carol Krynski, Beaver Bay Rhythms & Roots Festival Chairperson- Beaver Bay is holding a festival to highlight 160 years as a community which will incorporate history presentations, a children's festival and music. Events to be held Friday, August 19th and Saturday, August 20th. Carol will provide us with a schedule of events that we can share with trail supporters. The GGTA highlighted the city's festival in our ride brochure, poster, ads, newsletter and website. We will plan to have schedules of events at the rest station in Beaver Bay and encourage our riders to participate.
- Mark Sandbo, Vice President wishes to resign post, will remain on board
 - Nominations for Vice President – Tom Peterson was nominated, and conversations with Bill Blank indicated that he would accept the position should he be voted in. A motion to approve Tom Peterson as GGTA Vice President was made by Bill Blank/Anne McKinsey. Carries unanimously. We thank Tom for taking on this position.
- Gitchee-Gami State Trail Task Force/Memorandum of Understanding Update Process

With MnDOT recently including the Duluth to Grand Portage route along Hwy 61 as a 'Priority Corridor' in its statewide bicycle plan, planning efforts by MnDOT to designate a second US Bike Route in our state from St. Paul to Grand Portage and knowing that MnDNR considers the Gitchee-Gami a priority trail, with the distinction of being a Destination Trail, Bill Blank notes that it is timely to try to convene a task force to develop strategies for trail construction. It was discussed that updating the Memorandum of Understanding would be a good tool to initiate this task force.

Bruce Martinson, one of the founders of the GGTA noted that in its early days, an original MOU was signed between MnDOT and MnDNR but it had a sunset date. A second MOU process began in 2013. Michelle Pierson will investigate both MOUs and update the board.

Rod Garver currently serves on the Board as a citizen. His past and current work with MnDOT are invaluable to the Board. As a strategy is developed to update the MOU, it should be considered that the GGTA request that MnDOT assign a representative to the GGTA board especially in light of recent bike planning efforts within the department.

- Annual Ride Update
 - Volunteer list – Bill believes we have sufficient numbers of volunteers. We will send out a guide showing folks/responsibilities soon.
 - Need to find Sag Support/Bike Mechanic – Rod Garver may have a line on a mechanic. We can offer a business sponsorship in exchange for this support. If the shop requires a fee, please advise.
 - We currently have about 20 riders signed up
 - Will push for ride registrations on Facebook/boost post
 - Need to update the Rules of the Road card – if Anne finds an electronic copy, Michelle can make the copies.

2. Executive Director's Report

- T-shirt design options – A decision was made to make a third in the 'map series' shirts. Bill will work with the printer to inquire as to recommendations for shirt color, and we may need to alter the map design to more dramatically highlight Beaver Bay this year.
- Logo shirt for board members – a short discussion about having a 'presentation' shirt to wear if interviewed by media was held. Michelle will send out a poll to board members to determine if we should have shirts made/and if so if we should have it opt in, pay for your own shirt, or have shirts made for each board member.
- Address Change Update- Board members agreed that the time is right to make the actual change of address. Our new address will be:
 - 1130 E. 11th St
Two Harbors, MN 55616
 - Dan, please advise the board if you think an additional mailbox will be needed, or if mail can be separated and we can arrange to pick it up during store hours from a box behind the counter.

3. Publicity and Communications Officer's Report

- Anne McKinsey tendered her resignation for her Publicity/Communications position effect late fall. She will work on the fall newsletter prior to making her resignation official. She offers to stay on the board as a board member and will be available for proof reading/editing. She will train in Michelle and Charlie on website editing, too. We thank Anne for years of service in this capacity. Should anyone else on the board be interested in this position, check in with Anne to learn more about objectives.
- Ride News Release Update - Anne sent a news release to Northern Wilds to meet their deadline. She will be distributing a shorter release to other media agencies throughout the area in the coming days.
- Website Updates- The scoping document has been linked on the website. Some action items to come include developing a Business Sponsors button/page, adding the shoulder width map after ARDC makes updates, beefing up the gallery page.
- Anne will check with WTIP to see if the station can swap underwriter cards for business sponsorship. Dan Cruikshank noted this may be possible with KTWB as well.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Chad Pierson distributed a report of the treasury

- Membership Update- noted that there have been several new business memberships, life time memberships, and that 33 envelopes were returned with memberships from the newsletter mailing.
- Account Update/Renew CD – it was discussed that the CD can be renewed, but that some of the funds should be moved to the operating budget to cover costs for the Annual Ride. This can be done without a fee during the renewal period. Chad Pierson will shift funds at that time.

5. **Trail Coordinator's Report- Mark Rudningen, DNR**

- Installed two memorial benches, one on the silver creek segment and another on the "Thompson Beach" segment.
- Sprayed Split Rock segment for balm/tansey
- Removed yellow steel post- bike accident last week
- Temperance River GGST Repair: begins sometime the week of 7/18. Thoreson from Grand Marais is the contractor. Mark will notify Michelle when construction begins— Bill to take some photos, we'll advise our trail fans of the temporary closure on Facebook.
- FRTP Grants for both the Grand Marias to Cutface, and Tofte segment in the amount of \$150,000 each (reimbursement grants) have been awarded.
- No new information on West Road
- FLAP – Federal Lands Access Program – a grant solicitation has been announced. Mark is looking at access to the Tofte Ranger Station as being a potential project for rehabbing the trail, and ways to look at this opportunity to bring more funding to the Tofte segment.
- A request was made to see if we can get a brochure box at the Ray Berglund Wayside, and maybe a poster in the display case?

6. **ARDC Update**

- Trail Count Year 2 Update- Counts are underway. There are two control locations (one near Lutsen, one at Twin Points/Iona's Beach). The new counting equipment in Lutsen sends cell-based signals permitting live updates of trail use. ARDC distributed a project handout with some of the initial data.

7. **Other Business**

- Commissioner Storlie brought to board members' attention that a meeting had been held in conjunction with the Grand Marais-Grand Portage Active Living Plan that the plan includes the completion of the GGST as a goal for promoting healthy lifestyles in Cook County.
- Commissioner Storlie also brought up that there is a new One Roof Housing project happening next to Arrowhead Electric in Lutsen, and connecting that area to the trail will be something to look into.

8. Meeting Adjourned at: 11:12am

NEXT MEETING: Date: September 8th, 2016 Location: Tettegouche State Park Visitors Center