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# GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

May 20, 2017, 10:00am  
Two Harbors Federal Credit Union – Conference Room  
801 11<sup>th</sup> Street – Two Harbors, MN 55616



## WELCOME TO THE GGTA ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

1. Welcome & Introductions – Meeting called to order at 10:05am

In attendance: Bill Blank, Gary Brumberg, Bruce Martinson, Tom Peterson, Chad Pierson, Michelle Pierson, Mark Rudningen, Ginny Storlie, Nancy Mancini, Dan Mettner, Alice Tibbetts

2. Presentation: The Gitchi-Gami Trail Association—Supporting a Great Trail on a Great Lake
  - a. Executive Director Michelle Pierson presented a short, informational talk about the trail association history, current trail happenings, events, and ways to interact with the board.
3. Annual Ride coming up on August 19, 2017 – items to consider:
  - a. We need bike mechanic support
  - b. Planning meeting to be scheduled in June (Bill, Rod, Tom, Michelle—check calendars for availability)
  - c. Ride brochures are now complete and ready to send to printers
4. Legislative Update: At the time of the meeting, the MN Legislature was still in regular session. That came to an end in the evening of May 22. A short special session was called that expired 5/24/2017 at 7:00am. Despite this, legislators are still working. At the time of sending this meeting summary, our project is still included in the bonding bill. Should the bonding bill pass, we will have sufficient funds to construct the Grand Marais to Cutface Creek segment in the 2018 construction season. Stay tuned for updates.
5. Mark Rudningen, MnDNR – GGST Trail Coordinator gave brief updates about some construction and trail repair projects happening this summer:
  - a. Beaver Bay Bridge – MnDOT project. MnDOT will be redesigning the bridge, resurfacing, accommodating protected bike lane/trail across bridge. Part of this DOT project will also construct trail from current terminus at Beaver Bay Trailhead/Wayside and traverse on the MnDOT right of way on the inland side, go over the bridge, and continue to the terminus with West Road.
  - b. Beaver Bay Twp West Road – MnDNR has let this project. Trees were removed last week. Road was graded 5/24/2017. Contractor will begin repaving portion beginning July 6, and must finish by August 30<sup>th</sup>. The project includes paving west road, a curb, and separated bike path to the point where the path will connect with current trail segment heading up to Silver Bay. This project will likely not be completed in time for our Annual Ride. Detour routes may need to be identified. Mark R. will collect some photos of West Road's current condition so we may notify trailriders about this segment during construction timeline
  - c. Temperance River project: Repair project began late last fall. Contractor was unable to complete due to unexpected artesian springs. This is being mitigated. As of 5/20/2017 work had not yet recommenced. If anyone is up on that segment during repair/reconstruction, please take photos so we may advise trail users about the progress and the detour route.
  - d. Tofte – holding pattern as Bluefin owner Dennis Rysdahl prepares to reorganize his parking situation at Coho café
  - e. Grand Marais to Cutface Creek – Construction planned for 2018 construction season. Received this timeline from Kent Skaar on 5/25/2017 when consulting regarding a bonding bill question:
    - i. The preliminary/conceptual corridor alignment for the Grand Marias to Cutface Wayside has been completed, as have the natural and cultural resource investigations. The next phase of the project development will take place in July with the contracting of a

Consulting Engineering firm to complete the Project Memorandum (required for the federal funding) and the final design and specifications. The Federal funding for this project **must be** allocated to the project in FY2018. As a result the project will follow a rather strict timeline:

- ii. 1) Project Memorandum must be completed and approved by MnDOT in December 2017.
  - iii. 2) Project Plans and Specifications must be to MnDOT and Approved no later than April 2018.
  - iv. 3) Construction Contract Letting no later than April/May 2018.
  - v. 4) With the above – Trail Construction would be in-progress by May/June 2018 – with completion by October 2018.
  - vi. 5) \*The extent and scope of the construction will be defined by the available funding – which of course is currently less than required to complete the entire segment as defined.
  - vii. The same general timeline also applies to the Tofte (North) Segment – with the added consideration that we meet and coordinate the trail construction with planned revisions at the CoHo Café.
6. GGTA Staff Assistance contract with ARDC
- a. ARDC staff assistance by Michelle Pierson to the board at the cost of \$10,000 for the FY2017 was discussed. GGTA board members think favorably about ARDC's contributions and are willing to contract with ARDC for staff assistance at the same dollar figure for FY 2018.
7. Questions & Answers
- a. Alice Tibbetts attended our meeting. She had several questions about the GGTA, our forms of outreach, of advocacy and more. She is part of a team looking to develop a property along Hwy 61 in Silver Bay called the North Shore Adventure Park.
8. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Chad Pierson distributed the current treasurer's report. It was noted that print costs are high at this juncture of the financial year, and that memberships are only beginning to roll in. A motion to approve the report was made by Tom Peterson/Bill Blank. Carries unanimously.
9. Spokengear/Cedar Coffee Co. Yard Sale: The GGTA thanks Cedar Coffee Co. for providing coffee and pastries for the Annual Meeting. Our meeting today was planned to coincide with the first annual Spokengear Yard Sale. Before and following the meeting, several GGTA members volunteered at the event. The GGTA purchased a lot of 25 bicycles from the City of Two Harbors as the winning bid in an auction. Rideable bikes were donated to the sale. The sale event was very successful despite chilly conditions. At least \$8000 in sales were netted—totals for each of the two nonprofits that are the recipients of the donation part of this event are forthcoming.
10. Motion to close the Annual Meeting of Members at 11:10 am by Bill Blank/Tom Peterson. Carries unanimously.

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARD MEMBERS**

1. Meeting called to order at 11:15am
  - Nominations and call to approve board members – with respect to the GGTA Bylaws, a slate of executive board members were listed by outgoing board President Bill Blank as follows:
    - Tom Peterson, President
    - Bruce Martinson, Vice President
    - Chad Pierson, Treasurer

Nominees accepted nominations and it was put to a vote. A motion to accept this group of officers was made by Bill Blank/Chad Pierson. Carries unanimously.

2. Motion to close Annual Meeting of the board at 11:20am by Bill Blank/Chad Pierson. Carries

**NEXT MEETING:** Date: July 13, 2017, 10am

Location: (Tentative) Tettegouche Visitors Center