
GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL ASSOCIATION

February 1, 2018, 10:00am
MnDNR Trails & Waterways Office –Conference Room
1568 County Hwy 2, Two Harbors, MN 55616
Teleconferencing call in number: (218) 834-1401



WELCOME

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

Find meeting summaries and GGTA documents at:

www.ardc.org/GGTA

In attendance: Tom Peterson (President), Bruce Martinson (Vice-President), Chad Pierson (Treasurer), Dan Cruikshank (Board), Bill Blank (via teleconference, Board), Tim Anderson (City Administrator, Beaver Bay), Mike Guzzo (City Recreation Director, Silver Bay), Gary Brumberg, Skip Lamb, Ginny Storlie (Cook County Commissioner), Charlie Moore (ARDC), Mark Rudningen (MnDNR), Kevin Johnson (MnDNR), Michelle Pierson (Executive Director)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. President/Vice President's Report
 - 2018 Meeting Schedule – There was some conversation about meeting times and dates. Second Thursdays at 10am seem to work for most board members. It was suggested we reorient meetings due to two advocacy days coming up in March, add in the Annual Meeting in May in conjunction with the Gear Swap/Yard Sale at Spokengear, hold a July meeting ahead of the Annual Ride, and then reorient the fall to not hold a meeting in November during deer hunting season. Please review these suggested meeting dates. Locations to be determined.
 - April 12
 - May 19th -- Annual Meeting in conjunction with Spokengear's Gear Swap
 - July 12th
 - August 18th – No meeting, date of 18th Annual North Shore Ride
 - October 11th
 - December 13th
 - Membership/Board Membership outreach – discussion, and set up sub-committee
 - Chad Pierson and Dan Cruikshank volunteered to serve on a sub-committee to look at ways to grow GGTA membership, board membership, and member outreach. A subcommittee meeting will be set up in the near future, if anyone else would like to participate, let Michelle know.
2. Executive Director's Report
 - Results from TH Bike Route meeting – the final meeting of the District 1 through Two Harbors trail/route planning meeting was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017. Find minutes from this meeting attached. Stantec is still working on the draft of the final plan.
 - Secretary of State registration – completed in mid-December
 - Annual Ride – initial preparation – set for August 18, 2018
 - An Annual Ride sub-committee will be formed. Bill Blank noted that he believed Rod Garver would serve as ride director this year, and Bill would continue to play a large roll in planning this event.

- North Shore Scenic Drive Council
 - a) Lee Radzak, Cheryl Erickson – Co-Chairs
 - b) Justin Otsea, Executive Director
 - Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
 - a) Andy Hubley
 - Gitchi-Gami Trail Association
 - a) Tom Peterson, President
 - b) Bruce Martinson, Vice President
 - c) Gary Brumberg, former board member, Silver Bay resident
 - d) Will invite other board members to participate
- MN Legislative Session convenes Feb. 20th
- 2018 Senate Capital Investment Tour was held at Split Rock 1/30/2018 Michelle Pierson and Tom Peterson presented a slideshow to the tour members noting our \$3M ask for GGST projects. Gary Brumberg and Nancy Mancini also attended the presentations. Following the presentations, we were invited to tour the lighthouse and hop on the tour bus to highlight GGST projects.
- BikeMN/P&TC advocacy days
- Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota will be hosting their 2018 Summit on the Hill on Thursday, March 8th- Michelle is registered. Bill Blank intends to attend. Here's the link to the registration page:
<https://www.parksandtrails.org/events/2018-events/day-on-the-hill/>
 - Bicycle Alliance of MN (BikeMN) is hosting their bike advocacy day on the Hill on Thursday, March 15th. Michelle is registered. Bill Blank intends to attend, as does GGST advocate Bob Nesheim. Join us!
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/minnesota-bike-summit-on-capitol-hill-registration-42446185684>
 - Parks & Trails Council will hold it's Annual Dinner on Tuesday, April 17th. Bob Nesheim sponsors a table and has invited me to join in the fun. I would be happy to represent GGTA at this event. Would anyone else like to attend? Here is the website:
<file:///C:/Users/MPierson/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/OWYK4HRI/2018%20Annual%20Dinner%20%20Parks%20%20Trails%20Council%20of%20Minnesota.html>
- Website contact from Amy Bergquist and Erik Larson re: Segment 19 (Taconite Harbor to Schroeder). A couple who spends some of their time in Schroeder, MN, sent us a 32 page slideshow scoping out a possible alignment of trail from Taconite Harbor to the current terminus in Schroeder. It is an impressive amount of work. We'd like to invite Erik Larson and Amy Bergquist to attend our next board meeting. **It should be noted that mining considerations in this corridor may need to be reflected upon as we look more closely at this segment.**

3. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report – Chad Pierson submitted the End of the (Calendar) End of the Year Financial Statement. Please find a copy of this document attached.
- Notice to File 990-N – The GGTA was notified that we may submit our 990N e-postcard. Chad Pierson will file the necessary documentation.

4. Trail Coordinator's Report

- Trail Coordinator Mark Rudningen went over a list of some maintenance items, and trail progress updates including:
 - Grand Marais – Cutface Segment – Engineering is nearing completion. Bidding for this project will go out in September of 2018, with an award date of December 1st. This means that construction won't begin until Spring 2019. In the process of engineering, it was determined that there are some wetland adjustments, some coastal wetlands accommodations that need to be met that have adjusted the project start to a later date than was initially anticipated.
 - Tofte – 800 feet of trail construction will go out for bid in March or April, with an anticipated award day on May 1, 2018. A private contractor will be working with Coho Café, and will coordinate with the MnDNR contractor. DNR is still looking at a potential underpass at the south end of Tofte near the Forest Service, it would end up being like the Silver Bay tunnel, or similar to the Lutsen tunnel.
 - DNR requested the GGTA's financial support for the purchase of a new piece of lawn equipment, a tool that can provide 3 side weed trimming. After discussion and comparison of two pieces of equipment, Bruce Martinson made a motion to provide up to \$1600 to pay for half of the more professional quality trimmer. Second by Dan Cruikshank. Passes.
 - Kevin Johnson and Mark Rudningen of DNR thanked the communities of Beaver Bay and Silver Bay for their support in trail clean up and lawn/weed trimming care.

5. ARDC Report

- ARDC is working on a project called the Paved Trail Economic Impact Assessment in the Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Zone. This project will piggyback on our two years of summer counts, conduct bike/ped infrared counting on the Gitchi-Gami, Duluth Lakewalk, Duluth Cross City Trail, Munger Trail, and St. Louis River Trail. In conjunction with trail usage counts, ARDC is working to develop a rider/pedestrian intercept survey. ARDC will set up intercept locations on each of these trail systems and ask riders or walkers to stop and answer a set of questions. Right now, we are working on the survey. We would like to seek GGTA member input for:
 - A) Review the survey- please find a draft copy of the survey attached. Do you see questions that should be included that we are NOT asking? Do you see redundancies we could streamline?
 - B) Can you think of locations that we should consider to set up our intercept survey stations? Survey participants will likely be rewarded with cold water, and a snack (granola bar, bag of chips, that sort of thing) to thank them for their time. We'd like to find several potential survey locations on the trail in both the Lake County and Cook County segments.
 - Thanks for your help!
- Updates on Interactive Map Tour
 - ARDC updated the West Road segment of the Interactive map tour to highlight a continuous 17 mile segment of trail!

6. Other Business

NEXT MEETING: Date: April 12, 2018, 10:00am

Location: MnDNR Trails Office, Two Harbors