Monthly Meeting Minutes

Beaverhead Trails Coalition

Law Enforcement Annex

November 21st, 2019

BOD members present: Dan Downey, President; Craig Simonsen, vice-president; Joyce Connors, Treasurer; Pat Carrick, secretary; Dan Pence.

BTC Director present: Celine Beaucamp-Stout

BTC members and guests present: Betty Iverson, Betty Mooney, Pete Wakeman, Larry Skiles, Michael Mhoon, Alan Weltzien

Convened at 17:31

1. **Approve October 17th minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes by Michael Mhoon, Alan Weltzien seconds. No abstentions or opposition. Approved.

1. **Treasurer Report**

* **Joyce’s report for October 2019**

Total bank accounts: $53,994.10

unrestricted: $14,210.38 (General: $6,830.20 - Kendeda: $7,380.18)

Total assets: $667,421.33

October Income: $7,337.10 (event, UP grant,

October expense: $965.59 (payroll, tax, candies for Halloween)

Net income: $6,371.51

* **Membership count as per November 21st:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| total membership: | | | 81 | total members: | | 110\* |
|  | Patrons: | 28 | | |  | |  |
|  | Businesses: | 5 | | |  | |  |
|  | Family: | 29 | | |  | |  |
|  | Single: | 19 | | |  | |  |

*\*Note: a family membership counts for 2 members*

* 48 sponsor an acres

1. **Grant Update**

**Union Pacific:**received $5000 for Noble Ave trail project

**Steele Reese Foundation:**received $15000 for HT project

**Cornell Douglas:**asking for $10,000 operational. Waiting on Joyce to look over and send financials. No due date

**American Conservation Association: T**here is not much info on this funder, but they typically grant around $10k-$20k, they fund conservation and environmental issues, so would request HT. Similar application as Cornell Douglas, so would use a lot of the same info, save time and resources. However, now that we have the HT land, we need to take another look and see if it would still apply.

**State Farm:**National and local funding directed towards Safety... auto and roadway safety. This one was submitted late October, and we asked for $25,000. Waiting to hear back.

**Bluecross Blueshield**: cycle is closed as is any information until the second week of January. I put a reminder in the Google calendar so I will check in then. Everything else looks the same, I don't think they've even updated their page, so expectations and requirements should be the same or very similar.

**AARP Liveable Communities Grant**: we should apply for this one again for Noble Ave. With showing the progress that was made this summer, it increases the likelihood of funding, being close to the end. The only hitch is the project would have to be done by Nov. of 2020.

**Cinnabar:** should be out now... pretty much land acquisition is the only thing that should fit under there, and since we don't have that anymore it doesn't make sense to apply

**American Conservation Association:** I still can't find any info other than very basics on this one. I am wondering if it's not around anymore. The last 990 filed was in 2017, so probably not worth pulling something together and sending in. In 2014-2016 they had money, but it kept getting small and smaller, with 2017 not having an amount at all, so I"m wondering if they ran out of funding and are done? I'll search a little more but probably not worth the time and effort.

**United Way:** Walking Schoolbus Bus. $2,000. January

**Safe Routes partnership, and awards:** $12,500 for various projects that increase the walkability and bikeability of towns, with a focus on areas leading to parks. Sent by Jamie Flynn (Claire Marshall - Bike Walk Montana). Requires a lot of involvement and might not be a good fit for our group currently.

1. **Noble avenue Update**

* We have completed the North section of the trail.
* We are planning to call for Bids on the South section in December-January with construction next Summer.  We will be filing a claim for reimbursement from RTP for help with the bid package/project manual in the near future.
* We have submitted an application for a $25k State Farm Safety grant.  In priority order we are asking for funding for the South Section fence ($8k) and our share if the preparation and finish of the Middle section.  We will know the result by end of first quarter in 2020.
* Rotary wants to contribute to Noble with trees

1. **High Trails**

* Dan Downey called Harold Brown and he is meeting with him tomorrow at 2pm to talk about the easement to access BLM (right of way along the fence OR along the gully – our preferred). Dan D will bring him the easement written for Wheat as an example.
* Larry jumped 3 elk while walking the NW passage trail, which was great!
* Tuesday, Larry encountered about 20 college-aged kids who’d created a teepee with significant environmental impact – drove steel post, pulled up multiple sagebrush, etc. Believes BTC should write a letter and demand rehabilitation. DD requests that Larry report to Sheriff that we have a complaint about property damage.
* Four-wheelers going around: Dan D called Ben Pauleys, who said they were moving cows. Dan D re-iterated that we don’t want four-wheelers going off trails for no reason
* SW part of NW passage trail: the posts are always on the ground (probably by the cows)
* Montana Wilderness Association to work on trails in Dillon for 3 days in June (with Youth Challenge). Joyce is the contact.
* Ask DNRC which trail they’ll work on too
* High Trails Committee meeting will meet soon
* B-middle trail needs a new name
* Property tax bill we received was 10 times higher than it should because it was taken out of agricultural land by mistake. They will send a new bill. Also the tax bill is saying that the land is 123 acres (we paid for 127 acres). It was mentioned in the survey we paid for last fall.
* Since Joyce was talking to the revenue office, they sent us a form to fill for the agricultural status of the land (eligibility)
* Dr Sowell from MSU wrote us a letter for better land management practice.
* Dan Pence is writing a press release for the Tribune. Will be sent to MT Standard too.

1. **Other Business**

* **Conference in Whitefish** – Joyce – Front Country Trail. Info on liability, risk, trails, grants, big picture funding, volunteer incentivizing and management – sponsored by Business of Outdoor Recreation and co-hosted by State Office of Outdoor Recreation.
* **Zombie Chase:** Great attendance - 41 participants – people came in costumes

Net income $853.80 => $426.90 each BTC and Library

* **Halloween Party**: October 31, Keltz Arena (Chamber Of Commerce event): Joyce, Celine, Carol, Pam
* **Giving Tuesday**: Facebook fundraiser – December 3rd – 6am to get the facebook match – Library, coffee and donuts
* **Cornell Park**: Dan Downey met with Matt Jaeger – FWP is very interested with the site. Dan D talked to Jon Erb this morning and Jon said he wants BTC to own it because we are a local organization.

Jean Bergeson gave us feedback about liability: we are protected as long as we don’t charge a fee.

* **Holidays Party** at Dillon Tap House – December 6th – 6pm to 8pm
* Celine will be in France from December 21 to February 5th
* BOD meeting December 5th – 5:30pm
* We need money dedicated to repair the pigtail trail (gravel)
* Betty Iverson: She is working to create a trail running club separated from the school – BTC can give consultation for non-profit status
* Dan D was approached many times about a trail along Sweetwater Road, up to Fox Ridge. Maybe we can look into it for a near future project.

1. **Next meeting**

Tentatively Thursday December 19tht – 5:30pm at Sheriff’s annex. Room is reserved. Adjourn

Meeting over at 19:08pm