

Lake Vermillion Trail Joint Powers Board and Work Group Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 10:00 am - Noon
Cook Community Center
Cook, MN

Joint Powers Board Present:

Tom Lantry, Owens Twp.
Tim Johnson, City of Cook
Cathi Hiveley, Beatty Twp.
Phil Anderson, Vermillion Lake Twp. alternate
Terri Joki-Martin, City of Tower
Absent: Greenwood, Bois Forte, & Kugler.

Work group present:

Char Conger; Carol Booth; Steve Lotz.

Chair Tom Lantry called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Approval of minutes/meeting notes-

Motion by Lantry, second by Hiveley to approve the November 14 meeting minutes, no discussion, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Lantry, second by Anderson to approve the notes from December 4 when a quorum was not present, discussion as to what was appropriate, decided that notes would be approved as accepted information, all ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer's report – Phil Anderson reported that he had spoken with Treasurer Steve Peterson who had received a folder from City of Tower Clerk/Treasurer Linda Keith. Peterson was in the process of working through that information and at present no balance was available. He had also received a donation from Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd in the amount of \$100, a donation from the Fry Family in the amount of \$500 for the Trail as a check payable to the City of Tower, and a 2018 Trail dues payment in the amount of \$500 from the City of Tower. Motion by Anderson, second by Lantry, to accept the two donations, no discussion, all ayes, motion carried. Peterson was directed to work with Tower as necessary to make the Fry donation check acceptable to the bank.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

TOWER TO Y-STORE:

- Joan Broten was unable to attend the meeting but had sent an email on 1-7-19 providing some updates. For the environmental review Margi Coyle of the MN DNR offered to attend a meeting to explain steps that need to be taken going forward. As the next meeting was at the Tower Offices of the MN DNR the JPB requested that Joan see if that meeting date would work for Margi.
- With the holidays past Joan was able to make contact with Renee Mattson of the GMRPTC to discuss shortcomings of our unsuccessful grant. Renee stated that they are more than willing to help us through the grant process again. A few key points of why our application failed this

last spring were: they did not have a Joint Powers Resolution that was fully signed at the time of the grant submittal; our project should be better linked to the 4 pillars and legacy plan; we scored fairly average with a score of 51, middle of the pack; and we need to gain a potential of 0-15 points for financial matches (it is not required, but adds points). We did score pretty well in most areas; culturally, trail access, budget and Master Plan. Renee said the next round of funding opens on April 1, 2019. She also stated that she will send a copy of the Rejection Letter and a listing of points to take into the next application process. Tim Johnson, Cook indicated that the unavailability of a fully signed Joint Powers agreement was causing difficulties researching insurance coverage as well. Tom Lantry, Owens will continue in his efforts to track down and sort out paperwork including the signatures pages, which are believed to be with the Tower clerk/treasurer.

WEST-END:

- Tom Lantry, Owens was successful in making contact over the holidays with one landowner party with their two sons both present and he will continue to work on route details with them.
- Tim Johnson will continue in his efforts to follow up with some other landowners. They have generally been receptive but making contact lately has been difficult.

FUNDRAISING committee:

- Donation packet review - Carol Booth reported that Josh Gilson and Caroline Owens were working on edits.
- Raffle updates - Char Conger reported that ReGen has agreed to act as fiscal agent for the raffle. She will apply for necessary permits.
- A list of prizes is to be finalized for the February meeting. The face of the ticket will list major prizes with minor prizes to be listed on the back. Carol Booth has offered to cover the ticket printing costs.
- Date of the drawing was set as September 9, 2019 at Northwoods Friends of the Arts in Cook if that location is available.
- Online donations – Char Conger continues to need the numbers for the bank account in order to set this up.
- IRRRB Trail Grant follow-up – Char Conger spoke with Jim Plummer at the IRRRB. The IRRRB will not be providing a grant to the Trail in this cycle. Issues leading to this decision include concerns over future Trail management and maintenance, lack of other funding sources, confusion over the status of the Trail’s Master Plan, wetland issues and subsequent wetland delineation costs and the need to gain more support with the IRRRB Board. Some issues go back to the way the grant application was written. Char will get more information on these items.
- There was a side discussion of the Talking Points. Carol Booth had sent out an updated draft and asked that revisions and additions be sent to her. Points brought forward at the meeting included: recreation is an economic driver in rural areas; trails improve the quality of life; and they are recreational opportunities not otherwise available locally.
- Carol Booth, in finalizing the previous IRRRB grant writing grant, discovered that there is an issue with the Lake Vermilion Resort Association (LVRA) contract for Trail assistance with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC), as to if there are funds left on the

contract or if additional money is owed and that this needs to be addressed as soon as possible as the ARDC has been very supportive in the past.

Unfinished business:

- Wetland information – Carol Booth contacted one party on the delineator list. They indicated that they would do the delineation by aerial survey. In addition to being an expensive method she felt it not a good fit and will continue checking.
- Insurance – Tim Johnson, Cook continues to study insurance coverage. The Township Association referred him to the League of Cities and he is putting together an application packet for them. He is also firming up the Duluth agency quote. Coverage should be in place soon as it will help address some landowner concerns and limit Board exposure.
- Volunteer hours form – Carol Booth distributed a form prior to the meeting and asked that it be used as JPB, work group, and others tracked their hours and expenses.
- Executive Director Job Description was tabled until the February meeting.
- Bylaws discussion was tabled until the February meeting.

The JPB meeting schedule as set at the November meeting:

MONTH	DAY	LOCATION
January	8	Cook Forestry
February	5	Tower DNR
March	5	Greenwood Township
April	2	Cook Forestry
May	7	Tower DNR
June	4	Greenwood Township
July	2	Cook Forestry
August	6	Tower DNR
September	3	Greenwood Township
October	1	Cook Forestry
November	5	Tower DNR
December	3	Greenwood Township

All regular JPB meetings will begin at 10 am and the fundraising committee will meet prior to the regular meetings beginning at 9 am.

OTHER:

- Motion by Phil Anderson, Vermilion Lake, second by Tim Johnson, Cook, to adjourn, all ayes, motion carried at 12:05.