

# **THE FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL PARTNERS** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**January 22, 2009**

The Meeting of the Board of Directors for THE FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL PARTNERS was called to order at 6:20 pm, January 22, 2009, at the home of Melissa Rose, Republic, WA, the place designated for such meeting. The meeting was called upon at least two days' notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting. The following were present: Bob Whittaker, Melissa Rose, Sarah Spark, DiAnne Hewitt, and Judie Cribby.

**WELCOMES, CHANGES TO AGENDA:** Agenda was circulated and additions requested.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Spark presented the Minutes of the December 19, 2008 meeting, which were approved without edit.

Spark gave an update on corporate documents and procedures: (1) our State Annual License Renewal form should be arriving soon for completion; (2) a Bylaw revision will be made (moving Board meeting day and time) so Spark requested all Directors review Bylaws for any other possible changes, and (3) though the Federal requirements still need to be confirmed, there is no State requirement for non-profits to post meeting minutes if they have a website.

A discussion was held regarding posting our Board Minutes on the website. It was decided that, regardless of federal or state requirements to do so, in order to be as transparent as possible and to keep informed as many as possible, the Minutes will be posted, beginning with this meeting's date. The procedure will be that Spark, or the Acting Secretary, will circulate draft Minutes before the next meeting to the Directors via email, if possible. Those minutes will be reviewed and, once approved, Spark will resend them with the notation of "Minutes Final for Posting". Bob will then see to their posting. It will be up to each Director to print their own copies, should they so desire. If anyone has problems with such printing, Spark will provide copies to them.

It was reiterated that the Corporate Record Book is present and available for anyone to review during the meetings.

Spark also confirmed that our Bylaws provide that the only two corporate officer positions which may not be shared are those of President and Secretary. Therefore, Melissa can serve as Treasurer as well as Vice President.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Judie indicated that she would rather not serve as Treasurer, but would still be willing to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> signor on the bank account until someone else is elected Treasurer. Though reiterating that we must nominate a new Board member, preferably to serve as Treasurer, Melissa agreed to continue to act as Treasurer, providing hand-written reports due to a software issue. She stated that there was no new banking activity to report since the last meeting.

Melissa reported that the State IRS report has been sent, with our gross income at \$2,766, and a B&O tax credit of \$41.49. Linell donated 1.5 hr. on the filing and will continue to do so each year. Melissa has sent a “thank you” note to her.

Melissa reported problems with the CD provided by Sherri which should have the template to our financial statements. Spark agreed to investigate.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PR:** Events were discussed: Spark will spearhead a parade presence in the Barrel Derby Days and Prospectors Days; everyone will help get participants! Melissa will not be available during the Ferry County Fair. It is unknown if there is going to be a Conservation Fair this year, and we discussed our being pointedly invited not to attend last year’s event.

**Community Outreach:** Judie outlined a discussion she had with an interested adjacent landowner along the lake, and reiterated our goals to her as: get railbanked; be non-motorized; see safety-oriented signage in place; and protect the trestle and tunnel. Judie queried if we should invite her to a meeting; we all agreed. It was noted that she can review our Corporate Record Book, including Minutes, when she comes to a meeting, as she has requested to do. Judie will arrange a meeting with this landowner, to be accompanied by Bob.

This person had asked Judie if we are interested in getting grants. Discussion was then held among the Directors regarding our intentions regarding grants at this time. Bob stated that now that the County controls the corridor, the rail trail project should already be submitted as a large, long lead project on many infrastructure grant wish lists at the state and national level. He also stated our group should be most interested in doing the foot work for grant-writing, and added that he amassed good contacts with several state and some national organizations who are primary funders of rail trail developments. Now that we are a 501©(3), not only can we fundraise, we will also soon be eligible to apply for grants, if need be. Still, at this point, we fully expect the County to be the lead agency on the actual grant applications.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Calendar Update:** Circulated

**Update on Rail Trail:** The corridor was rail banked on December 15, at a regular meeting by the Commissioners, who then introduced the intent to form an advisory board as to the dispensation of the trail. It was clear to those at the meeting that the Commissioners intend to include motorized advocates on said Board. Concerns immediately surfaced from the community: specifically, why is a board necessary? What would be its real powers? What is the long and short term scope? Who would sit the board and how would they be defined/identified. Why are motorized advocates being considered when the overwhelming public comment has requested a non-motorized trail. To date, no mention of it,

nor requests for interested parties, has appeared in the media. These particular points have hit a raw nerve among many.

Bob and Melissa drafted responding letters and discussion was held regarding their content, including the BOCC's suggested "set up" (number from each category/group to be represented) for that board. Those letters were reviewed and language suggested. They will revise their last draft and forward it to Spark by Sat. morning for finalization; she will complete by Sunday morning.

Bob summarized his communications with Jacob Tresham, who is anticipated to be the advisory board's facilitator.

The next BOCC meeting is Monday, January 26. Bob will try to get on the Agenda, and he, Mel and Spark will plan to attend. Judie may be able to join.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

ORV Scoping Notice Includes Golden Tiger rail trail: Bob defined "scoping notice" as a part of an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"), and "legal requirement as change of use" that must precede, for example, enacting a County OHN ordinance that would change the use of roads/trails. Comments pertaining to this project will be accepted up to March 2, 2009, and then would be reviewed by the State.

Bob stated that since the Scoping Notice is being worked on by Virginia Sweetland, he should email her to see if there are any existing plans afoot to include the newly-acquired 29-mile rail corridor in the larger OHV picture/plan.

The Golden Tiger Pathway, new parking lot, and 1,100' extension west into city limits are already part of the County's OHV "Scoping Notice", it is assumed, since the Golden Tiger is already in use as a motorized rail trail.

While the Golden Tiger is motorized and not part of the new corridor, we should be aware of it and the larger (undefined) OHB plan, since it is the connector between the city of Republic and the school complex to the 29-mile proposed rail trail.

Bob will draft an email to Virginia; Spark or Melissa will edit.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 due to the lateness of the hour with work still to be

done. It will resume at 6:00 pm, Monday January 26, 2009, at Melissa's home.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

---

Sarah K.W. Spark, Secretary

**To Do:**

- Spark to prep 1-pg doc for CU re Judie as signor
- Bob to confirm Cons. Fair
- Bob to draft Scoping Notice letter; Spark to edit
- Bob & Mel to complete #3draft of BOCC ltr; Spark to edit BOCC ltr
- Bob to draft email to Virginia; Spark or Mel to edit
- Judie to arrange meeting w/ landowner & Bob
-