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Friends of the
Yahara River



FRIENDS OF THE YAHARA RIVER HEADWATERS, INC.

October 5, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DeForest Public Service Building

1. Vicky called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:38 PM.
2. Vicky Porter attended by phone. Shaun Shirley, Joleen Stinson, Kay Preston, Doug Porter and Jim Simpson were present. Franco Milani came at 6:45 PM. Jim Simpson left a few minutes before 7:00 PM. Sherri Milani was absent. There were no appearances.
3. Doug made a motion to approve the September 14, 2015 board meeting minutes as presented. Jim seconded, motion passed unanimously.
4. Joleen made a motion to approve the September Treasurer's Report as presented on October 5, 2015 with the following change: move PayPal from Other Income to Membership Renewal, as it was a membership from Ed Smith. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously.
5. Old Business
 - a. Ideas for Village stormwater grant – The group discussed several possible project ideas for this grant program:
 - i. Monitoring: money for the State Lab of Hygiene to run tests that are no longer funded from the DNR or new/replacement equipment
 - ii. Woody debris removal from the golf course to Hwy 19
 - iii. Storage on the new Dane County Bollig property
 - iv. Stream bank erosion repair with a contractor doing work
 - v. Purchase ISF property, perhaps in collaboration with other groups. Doug believes it is ~2.8 acres and listed at \$265K. Doug would like to do more research on the possibility of this. Jim made a motion allowing Doug to follow up on the possibility of purchasing ISF, Shaun seconded. Motion passed unanimously with Doug and Joleen abstaining.
 - vi. Shaun asked about the grant covering staff time. Joleen explained that many grants allow funding to cover staff and contractor work. It all depends on grant requirements. Some may cover time to write the grant application while others may restrict funding to be spent once the grant is awarded. The Village stormwater grant has allowed staff costs to be funded. But note that the 2016 grant materials are not out yet so changes for next year may come. Joleen also pointed out that it is easier for a small non-profit like the Friends to have contractors vs. employees because employees typically have other costs (ex: unemployment tax and employer Federal tax withholding, on top of additional tax paperwork).
 - b. Asset list update –Lists are not yet complete, but it is a priority for the next meeting. It was suggested that we write "FYRH" on our waders.
6. New Business
 - a. River clean-up wrap-up:
 - i. Overall the clean-up went very well! There were 21 volunteers.
 - ii. Vicky will write a thank you to all volunteers for the newspaper and will contact parents of those who were under 18 to request permission to use their names.
 - iii. There were a few new volunteers from Madison who seemed to really enjoy the hard work and made the connection from the river here to the Madison lakes. A story was shared about a riparian owner who at

Our mission is to enhance and protect the quality of the YAHARA RIVER HEADWATERS while educating the community and providing sustainable recreational opportunities.

- first was nervous about the work but in the end was very pleased as he was planning to rent equipment to remove a river blockage himself. He said he will become a member of the Friends.
- iv. Shaun shared detailed on a few remaining blockages and Joleen will follow up with West-Land Restoration to see if there is money in the Village blockage removal budget to do this work.
 - v. It was suggested that next year we mail a letter to all riparian owners before the event notifying them of the event and asking for their help. It was also suggested that we schedule check-ins with each group so we can pull people out from the river if they are not comfortable.
 - vi. Shaun made a motion to donate \$50 to Steve Falter at Capital Water Trails for his extra help at the clean-up. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously.
 - vii. Franco will follow-up with Beth Krey of the DeForest Court with feedback on the performance of two of the community service children.
- b. Tax form 990-EZ with Dan – Kay will follow up with Dan to see what is needed to complete this form and ask if he is still willing to complete these forms in the future and be the tax contact for the Friends.
 - c. Ways to increase membership – Several ideas were discussed:
 - i. Letter to riparian landowners asking if they noticed our work day and if they'd like to join the group
 - ii. Letter targeted to Village Board and Committee members
 - iii. Email to those who attended the river clean-up but are not current members (Vicky volunteered)
 - iv. Attend events like Dragon Arts Fair and 4th of July parade
 - v. Board members will follow up with past supporters who have not yet renewed for the year.
7. Any other business allowed by law
- a. Riverfest – Doug reported that the Riverfest Planning Committee agreed on a 2016 fishing clinic time change so it does not compete with the frog guy or the rubber duck race. (Additional comments were reiterated from the September 14, 2015 board meeting as well.)
 - b. DAF grant – We purchased 12 pairs of waders for \$809.88, which leaves the remaining \$1,040.12 for fishing equipment. Shaun will purchase. Vicky will follow up with DAF because she hasn't received a paper letter acknowledgement of the grant award. She will also send them a thank you on letterhead.
 - c. Director role – Doug noted that with 8 board members we need 5 board members (51%) present for a quorum, which sometimes is a challenge. Franco said he will talk to Sherri about her intentions to attend board meetings this winter.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Next Regular Meeting:

November 2, 2015 5:30 PM

DeForest Public Library, lower level room D

note location change

Next Working Meeting:

October 21, 2015 7:30 AM

DeForest Public Service Building

Distributed to FYRH Board of Directors by e-mail October 7, 2015.