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Director

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Director

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**Friends of the
Yahara River**



FRIENDS OF THE YAHARA RIVER HEADWATERS, INC.

January 11, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DeForest Village Hall

1. Vicky called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:39 PM.
2. Vicky Porter, Shaun Shirley, Joleen Stinson, Doug Porter and Jim Simpson were present. Franco Milani came at 6:45 PM. Jim Simpson left at 6 PM and returned at 6:45 PM. Shaun Shirley left at 7 PM. Sherri Milani was absent.
3. Kelli Bialkowski, DeForest Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Director, made an appearance before the board. She started by thanking the Friends for their efforts and that the Village values the work of the Friends. Doug stated that the Friends have issues – membership is down, we struggle to get quorums at board meeting, we cannot get enough participation and volunteers at events, and we may need more water monitors. Kelli suggested that the Friends continues to do what it does well (fishing clinics, Riverfest, blockage survey, water monitoring) and that the Village will continue to support these efforts as it can... by funding blockage removal, staff time for Joleen to continue to serve on the board, and the Village will increase efforts to reach out for event volunteers. Kelli noted that these challenges are not unique to the Friends and suggested to reduce board meetings when appropriate to make the time commitment more appealing to volunteer board members.
4. Dan Salas from Cardno made an appearance before the board at 6:30 PM. Doug and Shaun met with Dan (and another Cardno employee) in December to request a streambank restoration proposal to submit for the Village of DeForest water quality improvement grant program. Dan explained the proposal in detail – it includes three different sections of the river that can be repaired independently or all at once. The shoreline lengths are such that even if done concurrently, it would only be a DNR simple permit. The proposal from 1-7-2016 includes all surveying, project planning, permits and construction. Cardno offered to write the Village grant application free of charge. After much discussion, Franco made a motion to authorize Cardno to write the grant application to the Village for the full scope of work (alternate #4) including all three sections but keeping the costs separate as it was in their proposal. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously with Joleen abstaining.
5. Doug noted that in the minutes when it states the treasurer's report date – that is the date the report is presented, not the month of the report. Doug made a motion to approve the October 5, 2015 board meeting minutes as presented. Vicky seconded, motion passed unanimously.
6. Doug noted that the treasurer's reports list expenses and revenues but the total listed on treasurer's reports is the final account balance, not the accrual of all expenses and revenue listed for that month. Meaning, some of those expense checks may not have cleared the bank yet. The board decided not to approve pending treasurer's reports (October, November and December) until the differences are accounted for. Vicky will follow up with Kay.
7. Old Business
 - a. Asset list update – Shaun gave his list of assets to Jim to compile. He noted that the computer equipment is not on the list yet. Joleen has the projector and will send details to Jim by email. Vicky has the computer and will send details to Jim by email.
 - b. 2014 tax form - Dan Jardine said he will complete the 2014 tax form. No one has received confirmation yet, so Franco left him a voice mail during the meeting and Jim will follow up by email. We now have 2015 tax forms to do as well so Jim will ask Dan to help with that form too.

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

8. New Business
 - a. Interim treasurer – Kay Preston resigned by email on January 10, 2015. Treasurer’s responsibilities include writing checks, checking the PO Box ~weekly, depositing revenue, preparing treasurer’s reports and attending board meetings. Doug made a motion for Jim Simpson to be the interim treasurer until the position is filled. Jim agreed. Vicky seconded, motion passed unanimously. Jim will connect with Kay to start taking over responsibilities.
 - b. Citizens touch point group – The future of the friends was discussed while Kelli Bialkowski was present; no further discussion took place.
9. Any other business allowed by law
 - a. Jim stated that Barry Eichinger requested that the board considers funding an appreciation breakfast to thank all the volunteer water monitors. Barry volunteered to organize. Joleen made a motion to allow Barry to move forward with the idea with the cost not to exceed \$150. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously.
 - b. We will not have a February meeting, please conduct business by email and be sure to include all board members in all emails.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next Regular Meeting:
March 7, 2015 5:30 PM
DeForest Public Service Building

Next Working Meeting:
February 24, 2015 7:30 AM
DeForest Public Service Building

Distributed to FYRH Board of Directors by e-mail January 13, 2016.