

FYRH Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 7:30 AM
DeForest Public Service Building's Conference Room

1. Jim called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. Doug Porter, Gary Schutte, John Ackley, Jim Simpson and Joleen Stinson were present. Franco Milani was absent.
2. Appearances before the committee: none.
3. Treasurer's report: Joleen made a motion to approve the March Treasure Report as distributed. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously.
4. Secretary's report: Doug made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 board meeting as presented. Gary seconded, motion passed unanimously.
5. Grants: Jim submitted the DeForest Foundation Grant application February 28, 2017.
6. Annual Meeting Planning and Topics
 - The library meeting room is confirmed for June 5 at 5:30 PM.
 - Jim made a motion to discuss item 6 & 7 together. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously.
 - As the board plans for the annual meeting and searches for new directors, it has become clear that the Friend's role may be changing. The Village is doing a good job taking care of the river within their boundaries. Many of the original goals and objectives of the Friends have been met. It is increasingly challenging to find new board members and even new paid members. A number of the current board members are considering retiring for the following term.
 - It seems there are two options: find several very enthusiastic new board members who are willing to work hard to "breathe new life" in to the organization or celebrate the fact that the Friends have accomplished their mission and dissolve the organization with certain important functions (like water monitoring, fishing clinics, Riverfest events, etc...) taken over by the Village. It was also suggested that the bylaws could be changed to allow for a hiatus - go down to a minimum number of board members with quarterly meetings for one year; which likely just delays the decision.
 - Gary made a motion to not schedule an outside speaker for the June event (regardless if it is an annual meeting or a culmination/celebration event). Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously. John will let the Dane County Land and Water Department speaker we reached out to that they are not needed.
 - Jim made a motion for the board to discuss and make a decision on the future of the Friends at the next meeting. Doug seconded, motion passed unanimously.
 - Jim asked Doug to draft a list of accomplishments and bring to the next meeting.
7. Board Members for next year (see discussion points above).
8. Watershed Network Gathering "Community Based Social Marketing" is tomorrow, March 22, 5:30 to 7:30 PM.
9. Public Relations:
 - River Monitoring kick-off breakfast is March 25 at Norske Nook. Board members are invited; please let David Paulson know if you plan to attend so he can adjust reservations.
 - Lakes of DeForest – John reported that the Acker family sold their development land and that he has a meeting scheduled with the new owner.
10. All other agenda items are on hold pending next meeting's decision on the future of the Friends.
11. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 AM.
 - Next meeting Tuesday, April 18 at 7:30 am.