



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Event: ANT Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2006

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:15 pm

Location: Aboite New Trails Office

In attendance:

X	Jim	Coplen
X	Leslie	Ferguson
X	Gail	Herendeen
X	Bob	Kennedy
X	Lori	Keys
	Barbara	Krisher
X	Art	Mandelbaum
X	Scott	Miller
X	Mark	O'Shaughnessy
	Debbie	Probst
X	Lynn	Reecer
X	Sharon	Repka
	Jane	Schmitt
X	Stephanie	Schultz
	Gregg	Walbridge
	Bill	Zielke

I. Guests to attend board meeting

- Aboite Dog Park guests: Jodie Baird and Mike Rowland from the proposed Aboite Dog Park requested to attend our meeting to present their plans and how they would like to be a destination of the Aboite Trails.
 - Park name: Tails to Trails
 - The not-for-profit Dog Park is an effort with Indian Creek Veterinary Hospital and Animal Training & Development (The vet has over 5,000 clients)
 - The proposed 3 acre park will be located west of the vet's office, adjacent to Aboite New Trails.
 - Anticipated cost: \$85,000.
 - Timeline: goal to be open this fall
 - Leslie recommended
 - Labeling our future trail in their promotional material – ANT will identify the park as a trail destination.
 - Will add blurb about park to our newsletter
 - (Lynn) requested space at Vet's office for ANT display
 - Lori offered letter of support from ANT. Approved by board.

II. Consent Agenda: approved

- Minutes of Board Meeting. Date: 1-25-06
- Financial report:
 - The board requests a new line item on the balance sheet: under assets, please list "Outstanding pledges" which would then be reflected in the "retained earning" figure.
 - financial statement; Art/Jim requested the profit & loss statement to reflect the calendar year.

III. Announcements

- Total miles of paved trails (Lynn): 3+
- Total number of dollars raised to date (Jane): \$860,775
- Total cash in the bank (Jane): \$472,777 (includes restricted funds as reported in January, 2006)
- Funds allocated to the endowment (Jane): approx. \$2,000 to date
- New donors from 1/22/06 to 2/17/06 (Jane & Gail):

Walker

Dr. and Mrs. Ron Scheeringa
 Dr. and Mrs. Fred Rasp
 John and Margie Thomas
 Dr. and Mrs. Hollace Chastain

- **Congratulations to our own Bill Zielke**, who was named a Parks Commissioner (one of only 4 in the city) by Mayor Richard.
- **CARE Awards:** sponsored by Ft. Wayne Business Journal. Shortly after Lori started with ANT, she nominated ANT and Lynn for 2 different awards. Lynn was awarded runner-up in the "Executive Excellence" category. Congratulations, Lynn.
- **Donor list:** Gail is now keeping the list and will distribute via e-mail after weekly updates. Contact Gail if you would like to be added (or removed) from this distribution list.
- **Trail Restrooms/drinking fountains/Parking (as it relates to TE grant):**
 - (Lynn & Sharon): the City of Fort Wayne will attempt to install **restrooms and a water fountain** at each of the new fire stations for Aboite Trails users which is another new facilities requirement of the TEA grant. Many thanks to Bob for helping to make this happen.
 - (Bob) Meeting held on February 14th, with Parks Director, Al Moll & Fire Chief, Tim Davie. The meeting was held to discuss the need **for public restrooms & drinking fountains** along our trail system. Lynn brought up the idea of adding on to the new fire stations and attaching the facilities directly to the fire stations. This would act as a "safe haven" for anyone using the trail system & would help deter other activities. Both Tim & Al are supportive of this and agreed to look into this further. Shenkel & Shultz designed both buildings and we agreed someone from ANT would approach them & ask them to look into the feasibility & cost of these additions. Councilman Hayhurst has committed up to \$50,000 of his district money for the restroom facility on Covington & Scott, & the Park Department is willing

to work with either the Fire Department in building restrooms or including them in the new park at Homestead & Liberty Mills Rd.

- (Lynn/Sharon): **Parking:** We have approval from SACS to allow for vehicle parking for Aboite Trails users in any of their school parking lots. Many thanks to Jim for his help in satisfying this new requirement for our TEA grant application that Sharon and Lori discovered while in Indy recently. What a great partnership this has been with SACS.
- Sharon:
 - **Bridge/Tunnel at W. Jefferson:** Tom Miller (Pres Lutheran Hospital) has given us funding to complete a feasibility study to investigate safe pedestrian crossing at the hospital entrance. I am meeting with the Pres of American Senior Comm. to discuss using their property as a "cut through" to access the Towpath Trail you are able to cross at the hospital and access the Towpath.
 - **Representative Borrer/Major Moves:** I am meeting with Randy Borrer this week to discuss our trail system. Should the Toll Road lease be approved, there will be funds available for the widening of 14 (eventually all the way to County Line) as well as for our trail project. He is very interested in our efforts.
 - **Buckner Park:** This planned park will include a 1.3 mile paved trail within the park (at Bass and Flaugh Road.) There are also plans to widen Bass Road and have a trail added. This is currently in the County.
 - **Utilities:** Bill Etzler (VP/Regional Manager with Aqua Indiana) met with Gregg Walbridge and myself to discuss future plans for both our trail construction and future changes within their system. He was very open to working with us on future projects, but no details have been worked out yet.

IV. Discussion/Vote

- **Towpath Trail** (Lynn): Who should lead this effort now to acquire this land? It is too time-consuming for our organization at this point. We have already put in many hours toward this acquisition. I think our options are either to have Dawn and the city, the county, the township, Lutheran or a private developer pursue it from here. I do not feel that we can allocate any more resources to this acquisition, at this point. [Don Steininger is leading and effort to have a meeting with ANT, Bill Etzler, Dawn Ritchie, a commissioner, Bill Fishing. At this meeting, the above stated question should be answered. Therefore, no vote needed.](#)
- **Signage/amenities package** (Lori): Can we add signage as an integral part of our trail design contracts? We have previously discussed the need for consistent signage. I would like to work with a graphic designer and Dawn Ritchie to develop a package of consistent identification signage, directional signage, safety-related trail infrastructure like bollards and intersections, and additional graphic design elements to help identify Aboite New Trails and make our system more user-friendly. We have had conversations around the state regarding the need for trails being a "total package." Having good design incorporated into our trail construction will help our marketing, fundraising, statewide leverage and general appeal to the public. It will increase recognition of our system, in turn helping us achieve our goals of this 50+ mile system. The Baldus Company has already drawn up a quick idea for identification pro bono and is willing to do more work on this.

- Art encourages ANT, in general terms, to seek competitive bids in the future.
- The \$7,000 expenditure for Land Plan's proposal was approved. Details in LandPlan Group's letter of Feb. 22, 2006.
- **Homestead Road Trail:** After much discussion, we are still investigating the best option for the alignment of the trail on Homestead Road (south of Summit Middle School). The trail will run along Homestead south to Liberty Mills Road. This is a challenging section of trail, due to drainage issues and proximity of the houses to the road. We are examining the viability of a bike lane in front of the houses vs. a path in the middle of their yards. In conversation, MSKTD estimated costs for a west side path to be \$100,000 - \$200,000, and costs for an east side path to be \$600,000 - \$700,000.
 - Bob and Sharon will further investigate this situation.

V. Roundtable/**FYI**

- Lynn:
 - **Office phone #:** 969-0079
 - **Lynn's hours:** I am going to work on ANT business only from 9:00am - 2:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from now on, now that Lori is on board and up to speed on her new job.
 - **ANT materials:** please bring everything that you have stored at home to our new office now that we have lots of storage space. We need to have everything in one place to refer to when we need to. This would be things that you have the only copy of for example or things like easels, etc. ***Please bring these items to the board meeting on Wednesday.***
 - **Lori:** is doing a great job in her new position as our Executive Director. I have been trying to implement a transition plan for Lori whereby we are moving over to Lori all those tasks and responsibilities listed in her job description that have up until now, been carried out by those of us on the board or other volunteers. The objective of this transition is to have Lori carrying out those tasks in her job description independently, with the rest of us available as a resource when she needs us. Sharon and I have a regular weekly meeting with Lori to go over priorities and assess progress.
 - **Office/meeting schedules:** Our new office looks wonderful, thanks to much work from Lori, Sharon and others of you, other volunteers and our donors. It is the ideal location for your meetings so please try to use it whenever possible. The new signs and photos on the walls do half your presentation for you! Just email Lori when you want to use the room. She is keeping a schedule. **There are white notebooks on the bookshelves that can be checked out – contains general information on ANT.**
 - **Presentations by board members:** Since board members have been slow to respond to Bill's request (via Lori's email) to do neighborhood assn. presentations, she will just assign them as requests come in. If you cannot make the one assigned to you, then please just get a sub. You only have to do 1 in every 16 presentations if we all take turns. (Bill): BOARD MEMBERS MUST MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE FOR THESE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS. THE TIME AVAILABLE TO DO THIS IS LIMITED

AND GETTING THEIR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL. [Mark and Scott volunteered to do the presentation this Sunday.](#)

- Lori:
 - **Govt.** - ANT submitted our \$1 million Transportation Enhancement Application to INDOT for Covington Rd. on January 31. With the help of Jim Coplen and Barb Krisher, we added two outstanding support letters detailing local commitments for trail amenities. Thanks Jim and Barb!! These letters addressed several issues posed by the grant review committee.
 - **Construction** – The County reviewed Eggeman Rd. plans on Feb. 15 and made comments on design details. Where the trail has to become a bike lane against the road, the County is requiring a 6" thermoplastic white stripe to delineate the bike lane.
 - **Administrative** - Our new administrative team, led by Elizabeth White, will hold its first meeting on Feb. 20 at 11am. We could still use more volunteers for such tasks as mailings, organizing our inventory and materials, getting office supplies, managing databases, and assembling research and PR resources.
 - **Grants** - Our grants committee will meet on Feb. 22 at 7:30 am. Lori and Melani Wilson will disseminate information about new grants and help the team begin applications for 2006.
 - **Fundraising** – Our corporate fundraising team has begun the 2006 campaign, thanks to Lynn Reecer's efforts in getting everyone mobilized. Corporate fundraisers will report developments to Lori, and the team will need board members to assist with short presentations.
 - **Fundraising** – Our neighborhood campaign is beginning this month, with assistance from Sue Brown and Judy Dusman. If all board members and Lori do one presentation, we will be able to reach 16 neighborhoods.
 - **Volunteers** – Lori and Debbie Probst are scheduling a volunteer open house; tentative date is March 7. [Will not be March 7 – watch for new date.](#)
 - **LandPlan group is designing a trail "node"** that will greatly enhance our trail system. It allows us to improve street crossings while creating a great space for interpretive signage, identification signage, benches, bike racks, very low maintenance landscaping, and an aesthetically improved system. [The nodes will also be a key design element to slow, or stop trail traffic before a very busy intersection, yet can be extended when a path crossing is indicated. It is a very exciting proposal.](#)

- Bill
 - GOOD MEETINGS WITH IAN ROLAND , GEORGE HUBER . FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED
 - MEETINGS BEING SCHEDULED WITH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS
 - FREELAND EVENT ATTENDANCE IS NEARING COMPLETION . EVENT MUST BE FINALIZED AND A BUDGET ESTABLISHED

- Bob
 - **Fire Station Trails:** Construction of the trails along both new Fire Stations will be completed early this construction season. One has been bid &

awarded & the other will be bid & awarded in March. The Park Department will also be including a portion of trail along Homestead Rd. just south of the new Fire Station. This is the new park that is adjacent to the new Fire Station.

- Leslie:
 - Press Release on Lori sent; on website too
 - Gathered info. for A&A ad; will purchase full page ad
 - E-newsletter nearly complete
 - Media training for Lori to be rescheduled

VI. Roundtable items, in need of a discussion (but not a vote)

Lynn:

- **Holding the government to paving commitments they make.** I will explain at the meeting and get your feedback, but last week, the county said they were going to back out of paving the Amber Rd. project this summer and delay it a year. I am working with Nelson Peters on holding them to their commitment of 2006. **In the future, ANT will not publicize the commitment and/or put up a sign without a written letter of commitment from the commissioners.**
- **Board member expectations.** More to come on this next month but wanted to let you know what we are thinking about implementing with your input and approval. **Stephanie and Lori are researching what other organizations do in terms of attendance requirements, board terms, etc.**
- **The news in Indy and Carmel** about implementing speed limits on the Monon for cyclists, related signage problems, etc. **Setting speed limits may have implications in terms of establishing a trail to have a transportation component over and above the recreational benefits.**
- **Freeland Event:** what do we do if the event does not fill? **The event is for 49 couples plus the Freelands.**
 - Do we let ticket holders give their seats away? **The board feels this may bring in new donors.**
 - Do we start at the “top” and invite those people? **This is difficult to do because it’s hard to know where to draw the line in terms of who gets to go.**
 - Other ideas **Open the event up to board members. It is essential to have people “in the know” at this event to mingle with guests who may have questions.**
- **Govt./Construction** – Lori and Gregg met with Bill Hartman, interim County Hwy Director on Feb. 15 to discuss the County’s role in new trails. The County agreed to help with right of way and signage at intersections. The County did not agree to install flashers at Aboite Center and Eggeman. I had mentioned that the county will not install flashers for us at eggeman & aboite center.
 - (Lori): Do we want to consider paying for flashers ourselves? I just received brochures from a company Cross Alert Systems, who had previously communicated with Stephanie Schultz, for review or

discussion. The general thought was that traffic signals should be the responsibility of the city/county depending on who owns the road.

VII. Calendar (items in blue are new dates for your calendar)

- Event: upcoming neighborhood assn. meetings
 - Date: Feb. 26 @ 2 PM (Dells of Bittersweet Neighborhood): **Scott and Mark**
 - Date: Feb. 28 (Bill and Lori)
- Event: Volunteer Open House
 - Date: ~~March 7, 2006~~ *tentative date **New date to be announced.**
 - Time: TBA
 - Location: to be announced
- Event: ANT Open House: **Board members will be asked to work a 1-hour shift for this event.**
 - Date: March 19, 2006
 - Time: 2-5pm
 - Location: our new ANT office; 5750 Coventry Ln.
- Event: Arbor Day Celebration w/the Mayor
 - Date: April 28, 2006
 - Time: TBD
 - Location: the new fire station park on Homestead
- Event: Lutheran/Freeland Event
 - Date: May 19, 2006
 - Time: TBD
 - Location: Their home, the event will be inside.
- Event: National Trails Day & Relay for Life **and Bike About Aboite**
 - Date: June 3, 2006
 - Time: TBD
 - Location: Summit middle school
- Events: ANT Board Meetings will be the 4th Wed. of the month (exceptions include summer months and November). All meetings will be at 7:00 PM in the Aboite New Trails Office.
 - Date: Wednesday, March 22
 - Wednesday, April 26
 - Wednesday, May 24
 - (Township's Summer Concerts in the Park are on Wed nights so Board meetings will be on Tuesdays in June, July and August)*
 - Tuesday, June 27
 - Tuesday, July 25

Tuesday, August 22

Wednesday, September 27

Wednesday, October 25

Wednesday, November 15 (*this is a new date because the previously scheduled meeting was the day before Thanksgiving*)

December to be determined.

VIII. Hand-outs