



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2020
Blackman Township Hall
1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, MI

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:07 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kenny Price, Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell, Kay Brown, Jon Hoyle, Cathy Jehnzen, Dan Kaser, Jeff Lolkus, John Minar, Kurt Rudolph, and Benji Ward

Absent:, Kurt LaFrance

Guests: Phil Preston, Treasurer, Blackman Township, Gary & Vikki Grueneberg (Lake LeAnn)

AGENDA REVIEW:

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda as amended by Kenny Price, seconded by Jack Ripstra, and approved by all

MINUTES:

There was a motion to accept the emailed February minutes as amended (later in the meeting) by Cathy Jehnzen, seconded by Kurt Rudolph, and approved by all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Deb reported that there are 115 members at the end of 2019 and 46 of those have paid for 2020. Great also maintains a list of ~40 “friends” of GREAT consisting of politicians and organizations in the area. Deb also expressed concern about maintaining two databases.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Treasurer’s Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that at the end of February 2020 there were assets of \$17,140.26. He noted that at the end of February the Net Income is \$1,741.42 for 2020.

There was a motion to modify the list of those who are authorized to sign checks

from: Jack Ripstra, Kenny Price and Pam Brown

to: Jack Ripstra, Kenny Price, Kurt LaFrance and Deb Snell

by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Jack Ripstra and approved by all.

RIVER MASTER’S REPORT:

Jack had nothing new to report.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Kenny had the following discussion items:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 2020 Annual Dinner – Kenny will develop the agenda for the dinner, make assignments and get it out to all this week. Deb will have things printed for the meeting. Since Betty Desbiens is turning 100 in July of this year it was recommended to provide some recognition. Kenny and Deb will come up with something appropriate for her lifetime of environmental stewardship. A motion was made to amend the February minutes with removing the “Make-it-Happen” award and replacing it with this recognition of Betty by John Minar, seconded by Dan Kaser and approved by all.
- 2020 Expedition – Jim Seitz is having a pre-Trip tour of the Upper Grand River Watershed that will not be covered by the Expedition on June 19-21. GREAT will need to help support this effort with clearing, shuttles, and underwriting of the paddles with the publishing of the event on Facebook & the website, and the use of GREAT waivers. MGROW also a needs help to shuttle participants around the Eaton Rapids Dam on July 8
- Vehicle and Event Signage – Cathy Jehzen presented costs and options for signage from Johnson signs. It was agreed to look at the purchase of (10) 18”x24” vehicle magnetic signs with the GREAT logo and phone number (est \$40 ea.); (4) plastic A-frame signs with two 24”x36” coroplast

signs printed with the logo, a Paddler icon and , a directional arrow (est \$150 ea.); and (10) 24"x18" coroplast yard signs with metal stakes printed with a large directional arrow, a small GREAT logo, and a large paddle icon. Est. \$15 ea. Cathy will contact Fritz signs in Spring Arbor to check on pricing.

- GREAT Barn Signage – There is still no word from NW Schools about the signs. The matter is tabled until April.
- 2020 Earth Day – There was a motion to provide a \$20 donation to Earth Day as GREAT has done in the past per Cathy Jehnzen, by Kay Brown and approved by all.
- GREAT T-shirts – The board agreed to have this researched for potential purchase.
- New Blackman Park – Phil Preston, Blackman Township Treasurer and Parks & Recreation Committee chairman provided an update at the start of the meeting. Jack provided a sample letter to Deb to submit for GREAT's support of the project to Blackman Twp. For their NRTF grant application.
- AARP Grant Application for River Access – This matter was tabled until it will fall into the proper timeframe per the AARP guidelines.

Standing Committees:

Communication/Newsletter: The next Newsletter will go out May 15, therefore articles are due April 30. Topics should include the 2020 expedition, Annual Meeting, Earth Day, and June & July Events.

Finances: The 2020 Budget was reviewed and some adjustments made.

Activities & Calendar: The Activities Calendar was circulated for sign up of responsibilities.

Education & Advocacy: No report.

Annual Cleanup: No report.

Nominations: No report.

GREAT Equipment: No report.

River Debris Removal: No report.

GREAT land and building: No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Water Trail: No report.

Grand River Trail Map and Booklet: on hold.

RELATED GROUPS:

Watershed Council: No report.

Earth Day: No report.

JCCD:. No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Vests are still needed for Cathy and Jeff.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board discussed American Red Cross First Aid training. Options will need to be looked at.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

The next monthly meeting will be April 1, 2020 at Summit Township Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Kurt Rudolph, Recorder of Minutes

The mission of GREAT is to promote the protection and preservation of the Grand River Watershed through activities and educational programs.