

Ohio River Trail Council



1100 Pennsylvania Av
 Monaca, Pa 15061
 724-728-2625

MINUTES

DATE 06-28-2012

TIME 4:00 PM

MONACA MUNICIPAL BUILDING

MEETING CALLED BY	Dr. Vincent Troia
TYPE OF MEETING	Board Meeting
FACILITATOR	Dr. Vincent Troia
NOTE TAKER	Donna Campbell, Secretary

Attendees: Dr. Vincent Troia, Patricia Majors, Diane Kemp, Mario Leone, Justin Battalini, John Szatkiewicz, Nathan Peluso, Donna Campbell, Melinda McKee, Linda Tice, William Weber, Jack Manning

Agenda topics: D & O Policy, Bi-Laws Changes, Committee Reports and Gear & Beer Fallfest

DISCUSSION	The meeting began with the introductions of officers present. Diane Kemp and Pat Majors approved the minutes of the last meeting.
DISCUSSION	Dr. Vincent Troia reported that the D & O policy has been purchased. Additionally, the bi-laws have been approved and revised to reflect the reduction of a voting quorum to one third. Dr. Vincent Troia also reported that the annual report is on the website and can be downloaded. He encouraged anyone that has not viewed it to do so as it gives everyone very useful information about the organization.
DISCUSSION	The New Board of Directors contact list has also been posted on the website and has been sent via e-mail to all members. All pertinent information is listed on the left column.
DISCUSSION	The First Port of Pittsburgh Commission grant is almost completed. The grant will be closed out and sent along with the National Park Service grant. ORTC will have the benefit of approximately \$20,000.00 combined.
DISCUSSION	New Brighton is interested in participating in the water trail project in New Brighton along the Beaver River.
DISCUSSION	October 3, 2012 is the Pittsburgh Day of Giving 2012. We were inadvertently left off the list in 2011.

DISCUSSION	Dr. Vincent Troia created a website banner advertising project. He asked all Board members to sign up on the website and to get sponsors to do so as a fundraiser. Banners are \$45.00 for 30 days. The complete information is available on the website
DISCUSSION	The group reviewed an example of The Three Rivers Water Trail Map and Guide along with what a map for our area might look like. Our water trail will begin at the point in Pittsburgh, Pa and include the Ohio River Land Trail beginning in Coraopolis near Route 79. There will be Historic Marker signs at some of the launch areas. Dr. Vincent Troia has a presentation of about 500 slides showing the water trail and detailed information. There are ORTC forms on-line showing the various water trails and bicycle trails. Approximately 400 people have signed up to post their parties.
DISCUSSION	Justin Battalini reported that he has submitted his application to the Historical Marker Commission on the Lincoln Highway and it has been approved with conditions. They wanted greater documentation for the Lincoln Highway running through Beaver County along the Ohio River. It was later re-routed through West Virginia because of road conditions. Dr. Troia made contact with them again because there is very little documentation of the Lincoln Highway in Beaver County. Contact has been made with Representatives around Somerset, PA for some help and they are still working on this. John Szatkiewicz informed the group that he has approval to place a sign near Point of Beginning in Ohioville and will get a letter reflecting this.
DISCUSSION	Mario Leone reported on the EPA Brownfield Project and stated it is "coming along well". Aliquippa is transitioning their elected officials and they are working on other projects therefore this is not a high priority. The next step will be to wrap up at a final meeting in September, working on approvals from respective municipalities with directors and officials. All 23 grantees were present at the last meeting and our project was met with a lot of interest because it encompasses four municipalities and two counties. We are competing with Denver, Atlanta, Cleveland and others. Mario was excited about the project and stated it is "Very interesting and informative...especially for a Borough Manager wearing many hats; competing with people who are doing this project as their only job. It is quite a learning experience."
DISCUSSION	Pat Majors and Dr. Troia are working on changing the aesthetics of the ORTC Trail Sign near the Monaca Pergola. Diane Kemp reported that she must get permission from the Midland School Board to put up the ORTC sign about the intended trail. She does not think the School Board will have a problem with it.
DISCUSSION	John Szatkiewicz reported that the Butterfly Preserve Project is progressing well. They had a backhoe at the park to extend the walking trail. With the help of the backhoe, they were able to lift millstones left by the CCC out of the river and will incorporate the stones near the Butterfly Preserve. Linda Tice reported that the dogwood tree planted there had died but everything else was doing well. John and Linda would like to host a paddle party for the ORTC at the park maybe in August; however some much needed rain is in order to have the Butterfly Preserve ready for the event.
DISCUSSION	The Moon Township ORTC sign has been installed. It was noted that right after the sign went up the Tribune Review called and placed an article in their newspaper. John Szatkiewicz stated that the Tribune is a much better vehicle for our information than that of the Beaver County Times.
DISCUSSION	Bill Weber, Fundraising Chairperson, informed the group that the Steeler Ticket Raffle is under way. The raffle is for four tickets and a parking pass for the Steelers-Browns game on December 30, 2012. Raffle tickets will cost \$10.00 per ticket. The approximate proceeds from the sale will be \$9500.00 if all tickets are sold. Mario Leone stated he can get the tickets printed as soon as he receives the information. The raffle will be based on the first nightly PA lottery number. Questions were asked regarding placing tickets in envelopes or stapling them. Bill stated that Meals on Wheels uses their own envelopes because it is much cheaper than ordering ticket envelopes. This can be decided later.
DISCUSSION	Nathan Peluso reported on the Trail Town Tracker Program which is a way to monitor towns along the trail to see if they are making progress in becoming a trail town. Checklists are created for the municipalities and someone is selected in each municipality to oversee the functions listed on the checklist. Towns with tradition main streets or downtowns work with Town Center Associates to develop a particular program with a criteria we encourage them to meet, for example bike racks, bicycle friendly attitudes etc. Bill Weber asked if we could utilize college interns to accomplish the task. Nathan did not know if Town Centre still has them at present but thought this would be a good idea if they have them at some point in time. Mario Leone said if we get the information together we could introduce it as a point of "sustainability" a priority for schools like Carnegie Mellon. "Different persons wearing different hats" in the towns could take the outline to the community and accomplish the task by transferring the information between the downtowns and the ORTC.

DISCUSSION	Mario Leone reported he has plans to install bike racks in Monaca but manpower is needed to get them installed.
DISCUSSION	Jack Manning, Chairman of the Easement Negotiation Committee, stated he has individuals who are willing to assist with construction of the trail but not necessarily with money. Shawn Brady from Chippewa Township can help with easement negotiations. He is excited about connecting with the Allegheny County and The Montour Trail system. Chad McMillan will also assist with this.
DISCUSSION	Pat Majors reported on the ORTC's involvement in the Ohio River Sweep. This project is geared to cleaning up the local area river banks and included the disposal of 43 discarded tires and about a half ton of scrap metal. Pictures of the clean-up were viewed by the group. Pat informed everyone that the Monaca project is unique because Monaca's riverfront is entirely privately owned and only two residents were not receptive to the clean-up. Mario Leone and sixteen volunteers cleaned much of the targeted area themselves with quads and trailers. A private resident also came with a dump truck to pick up the debris. Mario stated the tires were extremely difficult as they are filled with silt. He added that the clean-up must be done when the ground is not wet. Jack Manning stated that NOVA Chemical also has a group that does this in the area around their plant. John Szatkiewicz suggested these clean-ups be scheduled in March or April before things start to grow along the riverbank as well. Dr. Troia wrote a press release urging other communities to participate.
DISCUSSION	Dr. Troia reported that the Brady's Run Lodge has been rented for the Gear and Beer Fallfest scheduled for October 14, 2012. Music, Vendors, trail groups, adventure sports and environmentalist will be invited, extending the invitation to anyone in the tri-state area. The event will be held from 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Vendors can set up at 9:30 am. Two bike rides, a road ride and a mountain bike ride will be sponsored by Snitgers of Beaver, PA. Venture Outdoors will sponsor the lake kayaking event and the 5K Run will be held. Our hope is that the activity will draw many people and added support for the ORTC. Dr. Troia has created a sponsorship brochure so sponsors can bring their equipment and also a beer-tasting from area breweries. Sponsors will get preferential treatment based on their level of donation. T-shirts and jerseys will be available for sale. Copies of the brochure are in our handout. Miles for Smiles was contacted about posting race statistics; cost is \$200. Jack Manning thought maybe Community College of Beaver County does this? Lincoln Park, (Stephen Elko) may have someone? Dr. Troia thought this would be a fantastic opportunity for the ORTC to build sponsorship. Dr. Troia suggested we get Casanova to play at the Gear and Beer Fallfest and would contact them regarding their fees for the event.
DISCUSSION	Diane Kemp, Chairperson for the North Shore study reported that she has not heard from Sean. She added that DCNR did send more money for the North Shore study.
DISCUSSION	Mario Leone made the point that we seriously need to think about getting younger individuals to participate in the group as many of our projects are long term. We need to reach out, targeting the high school and college student base. Schools and universities need to become involved and we must come up with the vehicle to accomplish this. They are the future of the project. A lot of the steering committees and their trails must have their input. Dr. Troia added that this is a valid point and important goal. Linda Tice stated they have invited graduates of Lincoln Park to attend their Paddle Party in an effort to get the kids involved. 39 kids along with the Coast guard auxiliary were at Lock 57 Park, Independence Conservancy to obtain boater safety. The mindset is to get kids involved which also get parents engaged and involved. One possible way is to use the obesity problem as a vehicle in the schools to get kids involved. Diane Kemp added that Midland Economic Development is engaging students in their District by asking them what they think we need in our town.
DISCUSSION	The Next meeting will be held on Thursday September 27, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

DISCUSSION	Linda Tice made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mindy McKee seconds the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm
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FUTURE ROUTE OF
OHIO RIVER TRAIL

FUTURE HOME OF
MOON TWP. WATERFRONT PARK



www.OhioRiverTrail.org