

Steel Valley Trail Council

Minutes for meeting of October 17, 2016 in Duquesne Municipal Building.

George Schmidt ran the meeting, which started at 6pm.

ATTENDING: Board members: Paul Heckbert, George Schmidt, Mike Sabo, Amy McCall, Sara Petyk, Yale Cohen. Bob Guests: Roy Weil (serving as proxy for Jim Taggart), Earl Novendstern.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. September's minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Earl summarized financial transactions over the past three months. Currently, emails about bank deposits & withdrawals go to not just Earl but also to George, Jim, and Roy W., as a check. The Day of Giving money didn't come into the account yet. In late Sept., Jim reported that the Day of Giving had brought in about \$1800.

MCKEESPORT TRAIL COMMISSION. Bob M. says the hostel is shut down and will reopen in May.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE. Bob M. is looking for a tow-behind string trimmer; it would cost \$1200. There was agreement that we move forward on this. Regarding cleaning of drains, Kennywood didn't have it in their budget and West Mifflin was afraid to touch it because the hill might fall down. We don't know yet if Jack Paulik talked to West Mifflin about this. Yale pointed out that "we don't have it in our budget" isn't a valid excuse. Bob M. argued that RTC, as owner of the trail, should maintain the swale, and reminded us that the water treatment plant, Equitable Gas, and Kennywood are all users of the trail there and should help maintain it. George suggested we contact Rich Fitzgerald to pull some strings for us.

MONITOR COMMITTEE. We discussed Ras Ible, the homeless Maryland man pulling a 4 foot wide rickshaw/cart along the trail earlier this month. Our lock at Haysglen got cut by FOR to let him through. Yale says the "grotto" area in Duquesne near the Riverton Bridge (where a bench sat until last year) has become overgrown.

ATA COMMITTEE. ATA is searching for an Executive Director: a new, paid position. Linda Boxx and Michele Gornick are stepping away from the board. They may restructure the board, as part of transition from trail-building to trail maintenance and amenities. They're looking for computer people, attorneys, and marketing people.

NORTH BANK COMMITTEE. Paul H. and Yale ran into John Fetterman, the mayor of Braddock, who frequently walks the SVT between the Pump House and the Whitaker Bridge. They discussed with him the idea of making the connection from Route 837 to the GAP official.

EVENTS. Bob M. brought up the idea of organizing an event showcasing "adaptive pedalcycles" (e.g. tricycles) catering to the elderly. Perhaps at the Pump House.

NOVEMBER MEETING. We need to schedule the November annual meeting, and attract new members. Most people liked Duke's Upper Deck, in Homestead, but the location is yet to be finalized. There was a motion spend up to \$200 for a location and an additional amount to be decided, for food. We'll do the meeting on Monday 11/21.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.
recorded by Paul Heckbert