

Steel Valley Trail Council

Minutes for meeting of November 21, 2016

at 576 E Waterfront Dr (former Radio Shack), Homestead.

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

This was our annual meeting for 2016.

ATTENDING: Board members: George Schmidt, Sara Petyk, Jim Taggart, Paul Coleman, Paul Heckbert, Andy Munster, Yale Cohen, Donna Green, Bob MacGregor, Deborah Brown, Amy McCall. Guests: Earl Novendstern, Bob Holder, Roy Weil, Roy Bires, Jerry Green, Earl Novendstern, Bob Garrity, Mark Hanna, Eddie Shaw of Squirrel Hill, Roseanne Litzinger of Forest Hills, Maggie Schmidt, and Leo Oksin (trail ambassador).

George began with a slide show discussing what the Steel Valley Trail is, our challenges (e.g. landslides), our attractions (e.g. Kennywood amusement park, eagles, osprey), maintenance (e.g. mowing, working with volunteers to paint over graffiti), amenities (e.g. benches, signs, and port-a-johns), and fundraising.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. October's minutes were amended and approved.

FUNDRAISING. Jim says we made \$3014 total from the Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving since March, including matching gifts.

TREASURER'S REPORT. There was a \$125 payment to Approved Toilets. Yale will tell Approved Toilets to take away the port-a-john from world headquarters at the beginning of December.

ELECTIONS. 2 people are rotating off the board at the end of this year because their two consecutive terms are coming to an end: Jim Taggart and Paul Heckbert. Mike Sabo is at the end of his first term and is up for reelection to the board. Three people are eligible to join the board: Roy Bires as a first time member, Earl Novendstern and Bob Holder would like to rejoin after a year off the board. All four up for reelection or for election were approved. They will start on January 1, 2017. We will hold elections for executive board positions in January, at which time we'll need to find a replacement for George as president, as he is moving to Chicago.

NORTH BANK COMMITTEE. Paul summarized developments this year: near the west end of our trail, construction at ALMONO in Hazelwood is proceeding. Automobile ramps at Glenwood Bridge were rebuilt, but PennDOT has not responded to our inquiries regarding possible bike and pedestrian ramps. The county continues trying to attract developers at the Carrie Furnace site. The newly-built Carrie Furnace Blvd that had a ribbon-cutting ceremony a year ago is still fenced off. East of Braddock, Deborah Brown has led a multi-borough effort to discuss bike trails in the Braddock and Turtle Creek area. Further up Turtle Creek, Westmoreland County will put down crushed limestone on the new Turtle Creek Rail Trail between Trafford and Murrysville in 2017.

MISCELLANEOUS. Kennywood plans to put an attraction in the same valley as our "world headquarters". There was a motion to skip a December meeting, as has been our tradition. The motion was approved.

recorded by Paul Heckbert