



Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 25th, 2024

5:00-7:00 pm

Behind the Scenes

Meeting Location:

Pullman's Waterfront Banquet Room

619 S. Olde Oneida Street - Appleton, Wisconsin

Mission Statement:

Fostering the Development and Preservation of Trails and Greenways in the Greater Fox Cities Region

5-6 PM

- Registration, Cash Bar, Hor d'oeuvres, Community Partner Displays

6-7PM - Gwen Called Meeting to Order at 6:02pm

- Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2023, Annual Meeting - *Motion to approve by Cindy Carter, 2nd Greg Steiner, Motion Passed Unanimously*
- Approval of 2023 Financials - *Ending balance \$112,522 at the end of 2023. \$66,234 unrestricted and \$46,288 in restricted funds. Greenways is fully funded by donations. Motion to approve by Cindy Carter, 2nd Greg Steiner, Motion Passed Unanimously.*
- Bylaws of Fox Cities Greenways Revision Approval - *Dennis Kittel presented on some by-law modifications. Motion to approve by Cindy Carter, 2nd Dave Minch, Motion Passed Unanimously.*
 - *Modification to membership time. Switch to a 12 month membership no matter when you sign up as a member.*
 - *Give the Fox Cities Greenways Board the Ability to modify the membership fee.*
 - *Modify the officers. Eliminate the President Elect and move all responsibilities to the Vice President.*
 - *Change the Treasurer Term to 2 Years. They must leave the board for at least a year before returning to the board.*



UPCOMING 2025 ANNUAL MEETING DATES: JANUARY 23RD, 2025. POPLAR HALL. APPLETON, WISCONSIN



- *Change to ½ for a quorum.*
- **2023 Accomplishments & 2024 Plans - 2023 accomplishments**
 - *Update By-Laws*
 - *Strategic Plan Updates*
 - *Update Financial Best Practice as an organization*
 - *Provided \$36,800 in grants to projects in the community.*
 - *Brownfield EPA Coalition Assessment Grant - \$100,000*
 - *Neenah Carpenter Preserve \$35,000*
 - *\$4000 Grant from the Community First Marathon Given to Fox Cities Greenways*
 - *Convert the Paper Trail to Paper Route*
 - *Gwen gave an overview of the work being performed on the Paper Route and what the committee is working on. The idea is to make sure the Paper Route is available to all ages and abilities.*
- **Outgoing Board members/ Propose new Board members. - Gwen thanked everyone for their time on the board in 2023. Gwen then recognized three members leaving the board. Kim, Holly, and Adam were thanked for their 6 years of service on the board. Each outgoing member is being given \$500 to provide as a grant to a trail project that they are interested in. Rachel Roth - East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Matt Larsen - City of Menasha, Ginger Sowle - City of New London.**
- **Approve 2024 Board of Directors and Officers - Dennis Kittel President, David Kittel Vice President, Derek Murphy Secretary, Julie Treasurer. Gwen asked for approval for both the new members and officers/directors. Motion Holly Femal, 2nd James Merten, Motion Passed Unanimously.**
- **Behind the Scenes Smart Streets – Danielle Block, City of Appleton’s Director of Public Works - Danielle Block presented on several topics including College Avenue Lane Reconfiguration, Smart Streets Appleton, and their Complete Streets Study. She then opened up for questions.**
- **Local Updates: - What’s New? Popcorn Mic -**
 - *East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission - High Cliff Connection Project is still moving forward. There is a website for the project. (highcliffconnection.org).*





- *Outagamie County - Smart Growth America National Grant. The corridor that was selected was the College Avenue project from the mall to downtown Appleton. They were approved for the grant.*
- *Little Chute - Trail from Creekview Park to the Apple Creek Trail in Appleton. Also, create a connection after the Washington Bridge to better connect to Island Park Trail.*
- *Kimberly - Grant funding that came to the Village of Kimberly from Fox Cities Greenways and Outagamie County Greenways. The Mill Site Redevelopment was completed. The trail now goes from Sunset Park to the Washington Street Bridge. Federal Funding that is coming to Kimberly for the Marcella Street off road trail.*
- *Inclusion in the Outdoors - Kyle Armstrong spoke about getting more funding to help with training other professionals.*
- *Door Prizes, Silent Auction - Gwen thanked everyone for the door prizes and silent auction items. Door prizes were pulled from the basket!*
- *Next Year - Thursday - January 23, 2025 – Poplar Hall – 141 Riverheath Way, Appleton, WI*
- *Adjourn meeting. - Gwen thanked everyone for attending. Motion to adjourn Cindy Carter, 2nd Andrea Peterson. Unanimously approved.*





Annual Meeting Minutes January 26, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Martin at 6:07 p.m. with a welcome and recap on the meeting agenda.

Cindy Carter made a motion to approve the 2022 annual meeting minutes as presented; John Cuff seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave presented the financial report for 2022. Final numbers for the year have not arrived as we are awaiting the 2022 year end statement from the bank. Motion to approve from John, seconded by Dave. **Motion carried unanimously.**

President Martin highlighted 2020's major projects such as the trail summit, winter activity guide, etc. In 2021 we started working on High Cliff Trail Connection, Paper Trail working group, and redoing the Greenways Grant application process. In 2022 we supported through grants the creation of multiple local trails. We also made some local presentations to groups to share Greenways and local projects.

Dave discussed our strategic plan going forward in line with our mission and vision. He also outlined the specific goals we have set as our focus for the coming year. We are due to recommit to a Strategic Plan, we will be focusing on finalizing plans for the improvements to the Paper Trail, and reevaluating our subcommittee structures.

Dave presented the three Board Members who are transitioning out this year: Bob Jakel, James Merten, and Andrea Peterson. In honor of their time with the board and their contributions Greenways will be making gifts on all of their behalf towards projects they are passionate about.

President Martin introduced the proposed 2023 board as President Gwen Sargeant, VP Dennis Kittel, Secretary Adam Breest, Treasurer Julie Last, Past President Dave Martin, Holly Femal, Michelle Bachaus, Kim Biedermann, David Kittel, and Derek Murphy.

A motion was made by Cindy with a second by Tom to approve the 2023 board of directors. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Guest speaker Kyle Armstrong spoke to the topic of diversity and inclusion in the community as it relates to outdoor activities and trail use. He conducted multiple surveys and focus groups to glean information from our community. He has found disparities in the amount of outdoor activities from BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+ individuals. He gave encouragement for a call to action to find ways to include these groups. Proactive outreach, targeted programming for marginalized groups, and celebrating marginalized history and culture are some of the key steps towards forward progress. He works for Inclusion in the Outdoors and works towards inclusivity in partnerships with other local groups.

The new promotional video for Cycling without Age was played as education for their program.

Municipality project updates were made by Grand Chute, Little Chute, Greenville, Neenah, and Kimberly. Kim also gave introduction to and update on High Cliff Trail Connection.

With no other business to discuss, Holly Femal made a motion to adjourn; Cindy Cuske seconded. **Motion carried unanimously; meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by Andrea Peterson, Greenways Secretary

