



Over 2 million visitors and 16 years of fun!

*The Friends for the Fox River Trail meets quarterly and has a monthly e-newsletter.
Sign up for the newsletter by sending a note to friendsoffrt@yahoo.com*

Friends of the Fox River Trail news for February 2017

Notes from our January 26, 2017 quarterly meeting:

Introductions:

Jim Genrich, Tracy Flucke, Peter Flucke, Jim O'Rourke, Ron Cattelan, Ken Nyberg, Rick Ledvina, Carol Radosevich, Frank Radosevich, Cliff Wall and Rebecca Nyberg

Treasurer's report:

Ron reported we had a balance of \$2,913.08. Many people sent in annual membership donations this quarter. There was a donation of \$500 from one family. Thanks! At the meeting more people gave Ron membership donations. These will be reported at the April meeting.

The membership discussed- How much do we money do we keep in our account? When to make donations for projects? Cliff suggested we wait until we have \$5,000 or more in the account. Then we can use our donations as match for larger WisDNR grants that are available.

Rebecca will complete the paperwork from the WI Department of Financial Intuitions so that we will keep our charter. The cost is \$10 annually.

Grant available from WisDNR:

WisDNR has some smaller grants available to "Friends groups" that don't require any matching funds. Rebecca contacted the Village of Allouez. Chris Clark said that during 2017 the Allouez Park department will continue to clean up the south end of Sunset Park. They want to start installing a walking trail near the edge of the river too. Allouez could use more funding to move this project along faster. The members at the meeting voted to have Friends FRT apply

for a \$1,000 grant for Sunset Park improvements. Rebecca will coordinate with Chris for the application. They are due by February 1 with a March release date.

Brown County Parks report from Rick:

- Snow removal has started and the ice storms put the agencies to the test. Overall comments have been great. Apple Valley Landscaping has the contract to clear the trail.
- St. Francis Park restroom is open and we check on the park randomly through the week.
- “Frenzy on the Fox” was a lot of fun. They had over 225 runners/walkers and 54 bicyclists participate on January 13, 2017.
- Dead tree removal is on the work crews list of things to do. They will be removing the most hazardous trees first.
- Brown County sold 4,193 annual trail passes in 2016
- BC is working with advocates for the Mountain Bay Trail. This spring they will be forming their own “Friends” group with a separate board and 501(c)3 status. Friends FRT will partner with them as needed.

Parking lot possibility in Town of Rockland:

There are 2 parcels of land adjacent to the FRT. They are about 50’ x 1000’. These pieces were owned by the RR and used to load cattle years ago. They were split off when the property was transferred to WisDNR for the FRT. Because these are no longer RR properties, Rockland put them back on the property tax rolls in 2015.

Friends FRT and Brown County representatives tried to reach the property owners to buy or have the land donated to WisDNR. The owner did not respond. No one has paid the property taxes. If the property taxes are not paid for 4 years, then the County takes ownership. It is hoped the property can be used as parking lots so more people will have access to this section of the trail. Friends FRT will continue to follow this and advocate for the property transfer to WisDNR.

Allouez Bike and Ped Plan:

The Village is in the final stages for the new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. There is a limited amount of time for public comment before it is approved by the Village Board. To see the plan and make comments go to: <http://www.villageofallouez.com/bicycle-pedestrian-plan/>

2017 meeting schedule:

4th Thursdays at 7 pm, Gallagher’s Pizza, Webster Ave
April 27, 2017
July 27, 2017
October 26, 2017

Happy Winter!