

Minutes

Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR)
Board of Directors Meeting
MS-Teams Video Conference
September 21, 2021

Members Present: Rich Burns, Tim Cowman, Bob Foley, Pat James, Tony Kellar, Kristina Laska, Paul Lepisto, Dennis Menke, Don Nelson, Rick Spellman, and Dave Swanson. Milt Haar, Thomas Downs, and Dugan Smith attended representing the NPS-MNRR.

Chair Rich Burns called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm. The meeting opened with the introduction of Thomas Downs, the new Interpretation Officer at the MNRR, to the BOD.

A. Reports/Updates

1. **MNRR Superintendent's Report** – Interim Superintendent Milt Haar gave an update on hiring. Carolyn Campbell just arrived today to fill the Resource Manager position. Law Enforcement Chief and Ranger positions have been hired within past three months. The new fiscal year starts October 1 – during the new fiscal year, the park plans to hire a new Recreation Planner position. The permanent Superintendent search is currently ongoing.
 - *James River Island Property* – the appraisal was completed about a month ago. The appraisal review is currently in progress. Next step will be an offer to landowners (within about 6 months). The Sanctuary Island property has been approved for a potential property acquisition. Appraisal is the next step for that property.
 - Dugan Smith reviewed the recent tour of the Meridian Bridge property to get an idea of what it would take for an engineering plan for the work to be conducted at that site. Someone from FOMNRR is invited to be a part of the planning team for this project.
 - MNRR staff met with SDSU collaborators for carrying out projects at Charles Mix County and Greenwood properties. More details will be provided later. National Park Service exhibits are planned to be installed at the Mormon Bridge boat launch site by the end of November.
2. **Finance/Membership** - Bob Foley provided the reports. The Fiscal Year ends on September 30 – Bob will provide a more detailed survey then. Current report highlights include: Total Cash in all accounts = \$14,356.25, with \$5921.46 reserved for MRE programs, leaving discretionary cash available of \$8434.79. MRE events are planned for the spring of 2022 after not being conducted in 2021 during the COVID pandemic. Little activity has occurred this past year due to COVID. Since little activity has occurred this past year, lapses in membership have occurred at all membership levels. Active Memberships: the Personal category is currently at 32 (59 have lapsed), the Business category is currently at 8 (30 have lapsed). Membership information will also be updated at the end of the Fiscal Year. Memberships should pick up again once FOMNRR activities resume after the pandemic.
3. **Newsletter** – Pat James reviewed the progress of the photo contest from the previous newsletter, although few submissions have been received to date. Pat suggested extending the deadline for submissions to October 15 and encouraged BOD members to solicit submissions. Thomas Downs agreed to serve as judge for the photography contest this year. Pat asked for any suggestions or

concerns over content from past newsletters. Some discussion followed, including suggestions for efforts both inside and outside of the newsletter to increase fundraising, new memberships and membership renewals.

- 4. Website Update** – Tim Cowman provided the report. Some minor modifications have occurred recently. Pat James and Dennis Menke have been working with Lori Roinstad on these re-design changes. Future plans for hosting and maintaining the website need to be discussed, especially as Tim plans on stepping down from the FOMNRR BOD after his term expires at the end of the year. Someone on the BOD will have to replace Tim (and perhaps we will need to change to a simpler software for updating and maintaining web content) or FOMNRR can hire out for web design, hosting and maintenance. The latter option will likely cost about \$100/month. Some discussion followed. A subcommittee was formed to evaluate options for hosting and maintaining the website into the future. The subcommittee will report back at the next BOD meeting.
- 5. Strategic Planning Update** – Rich Burns provided the report. No meetings have occurred since December 2020. Plans were in place for FOMNRR to meet with the strategic planning team for the MNRR, but these plans were delayed due to staff turnover and the COVID pandemic.
- 6. Frost Trail Sign Installation** – Tim Cowman provided the report and showed a couple of photos of the installation of the signage that has been erected. The signage provides a trail map, information about ecological, geological and historical issues relevant to the area, and lists the funding sources for the signage at the Frost Trailhead parking lot. Tim sent letters to funders thanking them for their support. The project is now complete. The BOD officially thanked Tim for his work on this project.

B. New Business

- 1. FOMNRR Board of Directors Appointments** – Rich Burns mentioned that several officers (including Chair and Treasurer) and BOD members are nearing the end of their current terms. BOD members need to be thinking about replacements and the BOD composition going forward. Discussion followed on responsibilities for the officer positions and potential strategies for filling the positions once they become vacant. Some discussion of changing the bylaws to align the terms of BOD officers with the FOMNRR fiscal year also occurred. Rick Spellman, Don Nelson and Bob Foley will define BOD and officer positions that are or will be vacant soon and report back at the next BOD meeting about composition of the BOD and aligning the terms of officers with the FOMNRR fiscal year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm.