

**FRIENDS OF ASSOCIATION THE CASEY JONES TRAIL PLANNING SESSION
JULY 9, 2020
MINUTES**

The Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association convened a planning session on July 9, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Members present: Mick Myers, Deb Nelson, Bruce Johnson, Gaelynn Vandenberg, Dan Wildermuth, Colleen Tollefson, Chris Hollingsworth, Chris Ingebretsen, Mike Zinnel, Jessica Welu and Jason Walker.

CARES Act Grant Funds

Jason Walker shared SRDC has received CARES Act grant funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic to be used through Economic Development Authorities. Mick, Colleen, Kent Skaar and Deb met with Jason and Robin of SRDC who explained they felt using funds to complete the three bid alternates on the last five miles to Woodstock and milling and overlaying the Six-Mile Loop Trail could be considered a good use of those funds since park and trail usage has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Jason went on to explain that the grant is an 80/20 match and asked if the Friends would be able to help the DNR with the required 20% match. Also, since the DNR owns the trail, they would be to be the entity to apply for the funds.

Kent Skaar stated during that meeting that he would have to take this request to St. Paul and get their approval since this was a decision he could not make. Kent also mentioned that DNR has been short-staffed for quite some time and asked if anyone in the Friends group would be willing to write the grant. Deb informed Kent that if DNR was comfortable with granting her access to their MMB site, she would be more than willing to do what it takes to apply for the money. SRDC would also assist with writing the grant as well. Kent will get back to us once he hears back from St. Paul.

Trail Acquisition and Development

Extensive discussion was then held regarding:

- Willing landowners in the 3.5 mile gap between the Pipestone County line and Lake Wilson; from Lake Wilson to Hadley; from Hadley to Slayton; from Slayton to the Six-Mile Loop trail at Currie; and willing landowners around the Walnut Grove area.
- What are the priority development areas for the next five-years?
- What are the obstacles we are facing?
- What is the history of funding – what was requested/received and the sources of funding.
- What is the hope of the DNR?
- Have we contacted seasonal homeowners on Lake Shetek?

It was the consensus of Boardmembers present to develop a draft of a 5-year timeline and present it at the August meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 6th at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Deb Nelson
Secretary