

**FRIENDS OF THE CASEY JONES TRAIL ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 20, 2016
MINUTES**

The Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association convened regular session on January 20, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at the Pizza Ranch in Slayton. Members present: Mick Myers, Deb Nelson, Amy Rucker, Bruce Johnson, Mike Zinnel, Jim Jens, Ron Qualley, Dan Wildermuth, and Jerry Remund. Ex-Officio member: Glen Livermont.

President Mick Myers called the meeting to order.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion was made by Dan, seconded by Amy and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as it stands.

TREASURER'S & MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since the December meeting was canceled, Amy distributed the Profit & Loss Statement for January – December 2015 noting with all expenses for the year, there is a net income deficit of \$102.52. There is a checking account balance as of December 31st of \$19,102.81 (includes \$1,000 for benches).

Amy then distributed the January 1-20, 2016 Profit & Loss Statement showing an income of \$986.00 and a checking account balance of \$20,088.81.

Motion was made by Mike, seconded by Deb and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's & Membership Report.

BUSINESS

DNR Update – No one was available from DNR.

Pipestone Trailhead Sign

The trailhead sign has been ordered and the Pipestone Public Works Department will install the sign at no cost with the exception of materials. Mick and Lee will meet with Scott Swanson, Public Works Director, to pick the best spot for placement.

Johnson/Tiedeman Agreement (Weber Johnson)

On Monday, December 15th, Mick, Deb and Mike met with Greg Johnson and Chris Tiedeman of Weber Johnson to discuss what services they can provide to the Friends. They are not lobbyist but have a solid working relationship with those that will count for us. They will advocate for our funding, help build relationships with key people and create an awareness for the Casey Jones Trail in SW MN. They are ready and willing to assist the Friends with education and minimal

lobbying efforts as we proceed towards our goal of being funded during the 2016 bonding bill session. This will not affect our 501c3 status as it would be more educating us as to how to proceed and showing the tools and resources available to see our efforts succeed.

Since the December 16th meeting had to be cancelled, it was necessary to gather approval via email in order to get the ball rolling. Their fee would be \$3,000 per month from January – May for a total of \$15,000. We believe this would be a good use of money that has been sitting in or checking account for a long time. Verbal approval was given to proceed with Weber Johnson. A copy of the contract has been received and was distributed for review. The contract was then signed and Deb will submit a copy to Weber Johnson.

2016 Bonding

Now that Weber Johnson has been hired, Deb will find out what the next step will be as we proceed through the bonding bill session.

Casey Jones – 50th Birthday/125th Birthday of the DNR Park Systems

Discussion followed regarding ideas to promote the 50th birthday of the Casey Jones State Trail and the 125th birthday of the DNR park systems. One idea presented was to work with the National Park Service, DNR and the Friends to have a booth at the vendor show during the Watertower Festival in June.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Deb Nelson
Secretary