



## MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 18, 2024



**Officers Present:** President, Dan Marich; Chair, Tom Stahl; Co-chair/Trail Coordinator, Joe McKenney; Secretary, Dave Houghton; Treasurer, Erin Husmann;

**Meeting:** Meeting called to order at 5:57pm, 33 in attendance

**Meeting Minutes:** April 10, 2024 minutes approved with following changes, (M/S/C) Don Carlson/Chris Beel

**Treasures Report:** Sept. 18, 2024 Financial report approved, (M/S/C) Pat Stahl/Steve Carlson  
Main - \$3,733.84 Savings - \$13,114.80 Trail - \$22,432.56  
Outstanding Items: NBC CD Maturing 9/23/24 - \$100,000.00  
NBC CD Maturing 10/22/24 - \$125,000.00

### **Presidents Report:**

- Brief recap of the end of last season
  - Big Blue sold to a club in Greenbay, WI
  - New groomer coming Oct. 27, 2024
  - Grant monies of \$50K, \$10K awarded to us for groomer
  - \$25K reimbursement monies from storm damage still in a bonding bill, but it is coming, it has been 2 years
  - Region 2 MnUSA held in April at Lawron club house, some from our club attended, good turnout, next years meeting hosted by Itasca Drift Skippers in Grand Rapids
- G.I.A. Funding paperwork being sent in soon for the '24-'25 season. Last year approx. \$40,830.00. '25-'26 may see a drop due to last years dismal winter.
- Talked about upcoming events: Sept. 21st, Blizzard bike tour(new business); Sept. 28th, Safety Day; Sept. 29th, Pankratz Auction; Oct. 5th, Land Owner Appreciation; Oct. 16th, PathBlazers Voters Meeting & Pizza Party; Oct. 25-27th, MnUSA Fall Workshop
- Trail Maps, Pres. Dan Marich agreed to help out with the Iron Range Trail Map this year. This is something he is familiar with from past employment. Looking forward to it. Thanks Dan.

### **Trail Report**

- Another shelter is planned at the Taconite Trail/Side Lake Trail "T". All the permits have been completed.
- Some brushing and mowing is needed due to no grooming last year which usually took care of this.
- Small re-route near Keewatin on Sawmill & near Side Lake on Pine Tree road is needed. Working with land owners.
- We are working with U.S. Steel Keetac on reroute & updating our land use agreement. This will give us updated agreements with U.S. Steel & Cleveland Cliffs for several years.'
- New Groomer will be on display at the MnUSA Fall Meeting at Black Bear Casino Oct. 25-27, 2024
- New Groomer will be delivered Sunday, October 27th at 2:00pm. Operators encouraged to attend. Everyone welcome!
- May have to get a loan short term to pay off groomer because of the \$25K from storm damage reimbursement being held up in a bonding bill. Brief discussion. All grants are free & clear and don't require payback if we sell the equipment purchased with the grant monies.
- Northern Traxx ATV/bike trail re-route on the east side of The Discovery Centers pit (Monroe Pit) completed. Very narrow, challenging, some signage needed.
- Working on getting our MnDOT right-of-way passage agreements updated. Discussed future changes to Hibbing's beltline
- Future logging on South Trail will end in huge benefits for our club and the trail itself.

### **MnUSA News:**

- Nichole Pankratz is the new Region 2 MnUSA Director. Congrats again Nicole
- MnUSA Fall Workshop Oct. 25-27, 2024 @ Black Bear Casino in Carlton, MN.
- MnUSA main office will be moving
- New improvements coming to MnUSA's website
- MnUSA raffle calendars available. We will have them soon.

### Old Business:

- Land Owner Appreciation Day Open House Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 12-4pm @ our building. Cook out. Pres. Dan Marich has sent out invites, Barrett Ziemer has designed a great flyer, Chris Beel is heading up the food, notices by email, Facebook, website and radio. An email will go out for baked goods & treats.
- PathBlazers will be featured in City by City (KBJR tv) & The Chisholm News Paper for our upcoming events.
- Safety Training Day (ATV/Snow event) put on by Fairview Range in Hibbing, the Hibbing Fire Dept., and The Ranger Snowmobile/ATV club of Aurora, MN will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024. We donated \$500 towards the purchase of youth helmets for this event.
- Membership down last year. Membership forms being mailed soon or you can sign up online.
- New PathBlazers Merchandise can be purchased online now through Oct. 31, 2024. Baseball caps & winter hats have been added this year. If you have a problem, contact secretary Dave Houghton or Range Sports in Hibbing.
- Folding chairs purchased by the club have now been donated by club member Mark Anderson. Thanks Mark
- A new chair rack was ordered and assembled by club Pres. Dan Marich and is ready for the chairs.

### New Business:

- Bike Tour Sat. Sept 21, 2024; Sandy Judge of the Tomasetti Bike Tour for ALS asked if they could use our facility as a stopping point for the bike tour. We will be welcoming them. Tables will be set up and Jim's Sports Bar of Chisholm will be providing the lunch.
- Blackwoods Blizzard Tour for ALS Feb. 7-9, 2025 confirmed they will be making the PathBlazers Facility a stopping point once again this year on Sat. Feb. 8th. We are hoping we get a little recognition this year for our efforts to promote club membership & community involvement
- Boys & Girls Club of Hibbing asked for support of our club again this year. Donated \$100 last year  
**Motion:** Contribute \$100 to The Boy's & Girl's Club of Hibbing. (M/S/C) Steve Carlson/Jeff Stahl
- Next monthly meeting will be **Voters Meeting & Pizza Party Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024 @ Jim's Sports Bar in Chisholm, MN**
- Venues have been booked for our monthly meeting through December. **Oct. 16** Jim's Sports Bar in Chisholm, **Nov. 20** Sammy's Pizza in Hibbing, **Dec.18** Valentini's in Chisholm. Jan-Feb-Mar hopefully we can ride to Riverside Inn, The Hwy. 5 & Bimbo's.
- Clean up efforts on the snowmobile trails in the Hibbing area each spring by club member Rick Harding 7 crew have not gone unnoticed. City of Hibbing admin. Greg Pruszinske has taken note of Rick's efforts and the amount of garbage collected. Gates will now be put in place to help restrict the vehicle traffic in these area's and control the dumping of garbage. GREAT JOB RICK!!!!

### Communications:

- Congratulations to Ryan & Erin Schirmer on their recent wedding. And Rick & Dayna Harding on their exchange of vows as well. Finally!

**Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn at 7:00pm, (M/S/C) Chris Beel/Jessica Stahl

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**  
**Voter's Meeting & Pizza Party**  
**Jim's Sports Bar in Chisholm, MN**  
**Meeting starts @ 6:00pm**  
*Don't Forget Your Non Perishable Food Donation*  
*This months donation goes to The Chisholm Food Shelf*

*For more information, questions or comments, please feel free to contact the following:*  
Secretary, Dave Houghton - 263-5889    President, Dan Marich - 996-1003    Chair, Tom Stahl - 966-3277  
Trail Coordinator, Joe McKenney - 969-9717