

Minutes
Indianapolis Hiking Club Board Meeting
Date: March 21, 2024

Vice President Marian Fahy called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

Present: Kathy Braun, Marti Burton, Mervyn Cohen, Phil Coons, Dave Drzewiecki, Marian Fahy, Pat Lawler, Kae Ramey, Konnie Schlechte, Lori Showley, Kathy Whalen, Rick Wortman and Ed Wright

Minutes: The revised minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Whalen reported a balance and net worth of \$23,479.74 as of March 21, 2024. The treasurer's report was approved.

Bills submitted for payment and approved by the Board:

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Debbie Bucholz	\$46.81	Badges – 7 mileage
Ed Wright	\$192.00	Web Hosting – 2 years
Ed Wright	\$23.34	Domain Name – 2 years
Ed Wright	\$35.00	SSL Certificate – 1 year
Ed Wright	\$98.94	MeetUp -6 months
Mervyn Cohen	NTE \$450.00**	Scanning of Schedules/UPS

** The board approved payment to the first three payees in a preliminary vote, and the cost of scanning in a subsequent vote detailed in Discussion Item #2.

Members

New members – Jan Adams, Xiao Feng, Adam Fulper, Russell Jeffrey, Maggie Klare, Shannon Snyder, Tina Wilson

Current membership is 523 compared to 529 last year

Committee Reports:

Pathfinder

The April/May hike schedule was approved. Ed Wright will post the schedule on the club website by end of day 3/22/24.

Webmaster

Ed advised that Paul Klimowich is working on a project to secure the website. The SSL certificate (listed in the bills paid) is the first step.

Publicity

Rick Wortman reported about 20 members walked in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and passed out green pencils and IHC business cards. (This was about half of last year's attendance.) \$100 was donated by our members to help offset the participation cost. Rick has received acceptance for the club to have a booth again this year at the Earth Day celebration, June 1, at Garfield Park. Marian Fahy advised that attending a "Preparing to Age" event hosted by Still Waters Adult Day Center on April 19 was suggested by a member as a good publicity opportunity for the club. As the event is at the end of the Smokies trip, our member (who is attending representing a different club) will let us know if IHC should consider pursuing this next year.

Electronic Media

We have 3331 Facebook followers. Phil Coons advised that followers have increased rapidly in the past two months. Phil has been receiving more hike photos to post and that may be increasing interest in our club.

Publications

Kae Ramey will mail the new schedules out.

Social

Marian Fahy provided the report in Annie Falvey's absence. Annie continues to look for a new venue for the Awards Banquet. Currently she is recommending Little Flower Catholic Church in Irvington. There is no deposit required and the fee would be \$300, with no time limits. It was reported they could seat 130, which raised a concern that the space may not be big enough. Annie has also reached out to John Knox Presbyterian Church and is waiting for their response. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting. (Since that time, Annie has confirmed Little Flower can accommodate 300.)

Discussion Items:

1. Marian Fahy provided a report from Phil Smith on behalf of the technology committee. The committee met February 22 and will meet again April 1. They are concentrating on

four major points for discussion – improved website security, online payments, online form completion and increased data tracking and improved accessibility of certain data.

2. In discussion on the request to digitize old schedules, Mervyn Cohen explained that this project will complete the task of making all historical data available online, thus providing a full history of our club. It will also make hike details searchable, i.e. how many times has the club gone to Turkey Run or who has led the most hikes in club history. Kae Ramey made a motion to approve the digitization and to authorize payment of the bill when presented, not to exceed \$450.00. Ed Wright provided the second and the motion was approved.
3. The April board meeting date has been moved to Thursday, April 25, to accommodate attendance to the annual Smoky Mountains trip.
4. In anticipation of a donation request to be presented to the board at this meeting, and any future donation requests, Mary Barbara Miller suggested the following guidelines for donations made by IHC: Given the IHC purpose of encouraging a love of nature through the promotion of outdoor recreation in the form of hikes and outings, the Board will consider three things on all donation requests:

Does the request promote this purpose? How?

Is there a specific use for the donated funds? What is it?

Is there a direct benefit to IHC and its members?

Requests for donations from the IHC that satisfy these criteria must be approved by a vote of the Board and provided for in the annual budget process so that the intended donation is visible to all IHC members.

Mervyn Cohen made a motion to approve the guidelines as the board's policy for donation requests/decisions. Marti Burton provided the second and the motion was passed.

5. John Bacone made a presentation to the board to request a donation on behalf of the Indiana Parks Alliance Trails for Tomorrow campaign. This group received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 that requires a matched amount. Donations will be used to address trailhead improvements, signage on trails, etc. The board agreed that the presentation met the newly adopted guidelines for donations and Kae Ramey made a motion for the club to donate \$200 to the Indiana Parks Alliance. Ed Wright provided the second and the vote was approved. Dave Drzewiecki will send a google group message out to make the membership aware of the Indiana Parks Alliance request.
6. An IHC member and hike leader expressed concern (related to an increase in spam calls) over her phone number being included on the MeetUp site when her hikes are publicized

there. Hike leaders will be advised the same procedure will be followed on the MeetUp site as on our own website and phone numbers need to be included.

7. Marian Fahy advised the club has received an IRS notice regarding the 2020 tax year. Marian and Kathy Whalen are working on this.

Place and Time of Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 25, 2024, 1 pm, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 3000 N. High School Rd, Speedway, IN 46224.

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Konnie Schlechte, Secretary