

Jefferson City Trail Users

January 15, 2025 Meeting Summary

Last Flight Brewing Co.

Those attending were Les Fortenberry, Julie Allen, Ben Hinz, Celeste Koon, Kathleen Henley, Mike and Jane Lester, Rick Thom, Shelly LeCure, and Lori Henley.

1. Kathleen Henley reported the treasury has \$276.30 after the group donated \$1,200 to Jefferson City Parks in December for kiosks and signs at Binder Lake. There are 25 members who have paid dues. Kathleen also filed an IRS form that is required.
2. There are 3,112 followers and 1,002 visitors for the group's Facebook page. (We don't know how Facebook determines these categories.)
3. The next Community Hike will be held at 1:30 pm on February 9, and will go from the Lewis and Clark State Office Building to Riverside Park and back. Meet at the Lewis and Clark building on Riverside Drive.
4. Future Community Hikes will be listed in the JC Parks program guide. Ben Hinz will be the co-leader and Parks facilitator for those—which is great! The dates of Community Hikes for the next few months will be March 9, April 6, May 4, June 7, July 12, and August 9. The group discussed possible locations for the hikes and Celeste and Ben will match some of the suggested locations to the dates. In the cooler months, the hikes will start at 1:30 pm on Sundays. In the warmer months, the hike will start at 9:00 am on Saturdays.
5. Ben provided the group with an update on the new kiosks at Binder. He showed a picture of the Trail Entrance structures (which look great though they are not exactly kiosks) with the new signs. They are ready and JC Parks is waiting for a couple weeks of warmer weather to install these at three trail entrances at Binder.
6. Celeste reported that Ashley Wiskirchen from Parks is already working on the Trails Challenge 2025 materials and registration details. She will also be looking at whether tee-shirts and backpacks will be available.
7. The group's members completed removing debris from the downhill edge (deberming) of the Frog Hollow Trail in November and December. Special thanks goes to Jeff Hamburg for a lot of work!
8. If there are suggestions for trail improvements at Binder, these can be sent to Ben Hinz or Kevin Schwartz at JC Parks.

9. The group decided to send a survey asking new city council candidates questions about parks and trails. This will be similar to last year. Celeste will work with Rick Thom and Mike Lester to determine the wording for the questions.
10. Since it seems many people do not know the exact location of area trails, the group suggested that a list of the most useful website links be put on Facebook periodically, and also added to the Trail Users website.
11. Two longtime supporters of the Rock Island Trail will be leaving their current positions. Dur Buntin, the DNR Director, will be stepping down and returning to water protection work with the change in administration. And David Kelly, the State Parks Director, is retiring at the end of the month after 39 years in State Parks. The group agreed to send them letters thanking them for their work, especially in regard to the Rock Island Trail. Celeste will send a draft to those who were at the meeting so they can add comments.
12. The next meeting will be from 5-6 pm on February 12, 2025, at Last Flight Brewing.