Minutes
Indianapolis Hiking Club Board Meeting
Date: February 20, 2025

President Debbie Bucholz called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Present: Debbie Bucholz, Marti Burton, Phil Coons, Dave Drzewiecki, Marian Fahy, Annie Falvey, Cathy Fischer, Martha Rivera June, Paul Klimowitch, Pat Lawler, John McShea, Delaram Moghaddam, Kae Ramey, Konnie Schlechte, Kathy Whalen, and Ed Wright.

Minutes: The revised minutes of the January 16, 2025 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Marian Fahy reported a balance and net worth of $27,890.62 as of January 31, 2025. The treasurer's report was approved.

Bills submitted for payment and approved by the Board:

Payee	Amount	Reason
Martha Burton	$22.50	Postage
Martha Burton	$14.70	Merchandise – Magnets for badges
Karen Ramey	$125.04	Supplies – Envelopes
Karen Ramey	$357.32	Printing – Feb/Mar Schedule & Club Roster
Karen Ramey	$682.80	Postage
Paul Klimowitch	$35.00	SSL Certificate Renewal
Marla Zinkan	$100.00**	St Patrick's Day Parade Registration Fee
Ed Wright	$299.99**	Meet Up Renewal Fee (12 months)

**Marian Fahy requested approval for payment of 2 pending items. Although invoices have not yet been submitted, both will require payment prior to the next board meeting. The board agreed to participate in the St Patrick's Day parade last December, with the $100 entrance fee to be included in the publicity budget. After board discussion regarding whether to continue using Meet Up, Annie Falvey made a motion to continue Meet Up with an annual renewal fee of $299.99. John McShea provided the second and the board voted in agreement. There will be an effort to improve the Meet Up communication to make club information easier to access.

Members
New members – Jennie Francis, Winde Hamrick, Rick Hofacker, Carol Mullins, Ron Selby, Tony Wolski
Current membership is 504 compared to 517 last year.

Committee Reports:

Pathfinder

Ed Wright has requested April/May hikes.

Mileage/Database

John McShea reported club members have hiked 35,253 miles in the current club year. The average hike length is 5.71 miles.

Webmaster

Paul Klimowitch reported the technology committee is working on an online application form (independent of payment.) Information from the form will be captured and entered in the database without the membership officer having to do it manually. Paul provided a mock-up of the application and asked for feedback. The technology committee will meet again in April.

Electronic Media

We have 4032 Facebook followers. Phil Coons will be adding Delaram Moghaddam as co-administrator to the club's Facebook page.

Publicity

Delaram Moghaddam reported we have 622 Instagram followers – an increase of nearly 100 since last month. Delaram also reported the February issue of Indianapolis Monthly magazine covered IHC in an article titled "Let's Make Friends!" An electronic version can be viewed at https://issuu.com/indianapolismonthly/docs/im_february_2025. Also, the Indy Trail Collective mentioned IHC on the Southwestway Trail Users Facebook page and provided a volunteer profile on Debbie Bucholz and the club.

Social

Annie Falvey discussed dates and venues for our social functions this year. The summer picnic will be Saturday, July 26. Annie will reserve the shelter for the picnic at Eagle Creek Park. The general assembly will be Thursday, September 4, at Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis, 615 W 43rd St, Indianapolis. The winter banquet venue will remain the same (St Therese Little Flower) with a probable date of Saturday, January 10, 2026.

Conservation

Dave Drzewiecki requested discussion at the next board meeting to determine if the board has an appetite for doing more than we are currently doing regarding conservation. The question was asked if conservation and maintenance are the same thing, or different. That topic will be included in the discussion next month.

Discussion Items:

1. Mike Oles of Indiana Forest Alliance made a brief presentation to discuss their 2025 goal of purchasing 3 major urban forests, with an urgent emphasis on Eastside Flatwoods. Mike suggested a partnership of sorts with the hiking club, with members contacting Mayor Hogsett and their city councilors to urge them to utilize unspent budget funds to acquire at-risk, high-quality forests.
2. Each board member was given the opportunity to explain how a change from fiscal year to calendar year would affect their duties. There was also discussion of the process to make the change (would require amending the constitution), and the history of the use of a fiscal year. Following all discussion, the board consensus was to not make a change from the fiscal year practice.
3. There will be discussion next month regarding potential recipients of the $1100 budgeted for club donations this year. The $750 donation to Eagle Creek Foundation (agreed on previously) will be submitted as a pending bill from the treasurer.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be Thursday, March 20, 2025, 1 pm, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 3000 N. High School Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46224.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Konnie Schlechte, Secretary