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**REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION**

Paint Creek Cider Mill Building, 4480 Orion Road  
Oakland Township, Oakland County, Michigan 48306

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Tuesday March 15, 2016 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker at 7:00 p.m.

**Voting Members Present:** Rock Blanchard, Susan Bowyer (*enter 7:12 p.m.*), Frank Ferriolo, Linda Gamage, Neal Porter, Kim Russell (*enter 7:20 p.m.*), Alice Young, Andy Zale

**Voting Alternates Present:** David Becker (*voting until 7:20 p.m.*), Jim Kubicina (*voting until 7:12 p.m.*)

**Non-Voting Alternates Present:** Martha Olijnyk (*enter 7:16 p.m.*), Donni Steele

**Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Present:** Brad Mathisen

**Voting Members Absent:** None

**Alternates Absent:** Mike Bailey, Ben Giovanelli, Lynn Loebis, Lisa Sokol, Richard Schultz

**Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Alternate Absent:** Doug Hobbs

**Others Present:** Kristen Myers, Trail Manager, Chris Gray, Administrative Assistant, Sandi DiSipio, Recording Secretary

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** All rose and recited the Pledge.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION** by Zale, seconded by Gamage, ***Moved***, to approve the March 15, 2016 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

a. Minutes – February 16, 2016 Regular Meeting, approve and file

b. Treasurers Report – February 2016, receive and file

**MOTION** by Ferriolo, seconded by Blanchard, ***Moved***, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES:** Ms. Myers presented the invoices in the amount of \$13,234.60.

In addition to the recorder's monthly fee, this amount includes the public hearing ad in the Rochester Post for the MNRTF Grant Application and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter wages and FICA for the Manager and Administrative Assistant positions. Estimated unrestricted fund balance is approximately \$83,000.

**MOTION** by Kubicina, supported by Young, ***Moved***, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$13,234.60 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC HEARING: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application TF16-0008, Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation:** Ms. Myers summarized this bridge has some structural issues that were found when Oakland Township Parks & Rec hired Spalding DeDecker Engineers to complete a scoping report in 2013. It was decided to apply for the MNRTF grant to help pay part of the cost of the bridge. The bridge cost is estimated (at worst case scenario) at \$756,200. Thoughts are to apply for the \$300,000 MNRTF grant, a Transportation Alternatives Program grant in the amount of \$300,000 in May, and Oakland Township Parks & Rec would provide the remaining \$156,200 match money for the project contingent upon the Board of Trustees approving the request. It will be a 61 foot bridge replacement. The current bridge is 92 years old and similar to the bridge north of Ludlow. Information and maps showing location of the proposed bridge were provided to the Commissioners. Mr. Blanchard asked about design of the bridge. Ms. Mindy Milos-Dale came forward and indicated if they are awarded the grant, there will be a lot of public input on the design. The scoping report listed a variety of alternative designs – a concrete arch (which is similar to two other bridges in Oakland Township), a steel beam type of bridge and a prefabricated steel bridge. The concrete arch bridge is the more expensive of the three and she thought it would be good to submit that one because it looks more historical and the dollar amount will give the opportunity to refine the options if the grant is approved. The three options range in cost between \$600,000 and \$756,000. The bridge design can be modified if the grant is received, as long requirements for ADA and AASHTO are met. The grant is based on a percentage of the total project cost. As this is the narrowest bridge on the trail, replacement would help getting emergency vehicles across it. It is also the only timber bridge in Oakland Township that has abutments in the middle of the creek versus on the shores. Photos were included in the grant application of the logjams.

Chairperson Becker opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Martin McClure, 5660 N. Livernois, came forward and indicated he adjoins the property. He feels the design of the bridge should be explored in depth to assure compatibility. He does not see logjams being a problem in the future as most of the elm and ash trees have gone down. He asked if construction access would be from Dutton or Silver Bell. He has a small footpath that follows the creek so he can access the main trail, and would like it retained. He stated the Commission does a good job.

Chairperson Becker closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

Ms. Myers indicated logjams have been a problem at least once a season for the past couple of years. The best construction access to the trail will be from Dutton, but that will be determined by the engineers. Staff will communicate with Mr. McClure regarding his concerns. Letters of support for the project have been requested from Trout Unlimited and others, but no resident comments have been received by staff. A few comments were heard at the last Oakland Township Parks & Rec meeting. Mr. McClure asked if any major change is anticipated to move the creek north or south as this would affect his property. Ms. Milos-Dale indicated there has been no talk of moving the creek - this will be answered during the construction phase. There will be a lot of people involved to make sure everything done is environmentally correct. Mr. McClure indicated he would like to be part of the decision making.

**APPROVAL: Resolution #2016-02 – Authorizing submission of Grant Application TF16-0008 to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund:**

**MOTION** by Ferriolo, seconded by Blanchard, *Moved*, to approve Resolution #2016-02 For Application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund as presented:

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, an intergovernmental agency, owns, manages, and operates the 8.9 mile Paint Creek Trail in Oakland County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission supports the submission of an application titled “Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation” to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, for the development of a 61’ long pedestrian bridge between Dutton and Silver Bell Roads in Oakland Township, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the location of the proposed project is within the jurisdiction of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project, if completed, will be a benefit to the community and the thousands of trail users annually; and

WHEREAS, the proposed development application is supported by the approved 2014-2018 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan and the 2015-2019 Oakland Township Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission has made a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$156,200, with funds derived from the Oakland Township Parks Millage funds; and

WHEREAS, if the grant is awarded to the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, we commit the donated amount of \$156,200 from the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission for matching funds in combination with a proposed \$300,000 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant; and

WHEREAS, with this resolution of support it is acknowledged that the Paint Creek Trailways Commission is not committing any of their own funds to any financial obligations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Paint Creek Trailways Commission of Oakland County, Michigan, hereby supports the submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application for the “Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation” project for the total project cost of \$756,200, and further resolves to make available a local match through financial commitment from Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission and Transportation Alternatives Program Grant funding of \$456,200 (60%) of a total of \$756,200 project cost, during the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

AYES: Blanchard, Bowyer, Ferriolo, Gamage, Porter, Russell, Young, Zale

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION & APPROVAL: Reaffirmation of Understanding: Maintenance & In-Kind Services:**

Ms. Myers revised the document based on input from the Commission last month and removed the signature page. It was suggested this document be included with the annual budget request to the member communities. After a short discussion of possible revisions, the Commission’s consensus is to include the document as presented in the annual budget packet. Any future amenities should be discussed with the respective community.

**MOTION** by Blanchard, seconded by Young, *Moved*, to approve the Reaffirmation of Understanding: Maintenance & In-Kind Services document as presented with the understanding it be included with the next annual budget request packet with an explanation cover memo.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION: 2016 Advisory Committee Assignments:** Ms. Myers updated the list of advisory committees showing the vacancies. Commissioners serving on committees are still listed to see if they wished to continue to serve. The Polly Ann Trail Connection committee may not meet as other agencies are working on the connection now. Ms. Bowyer and Mr. Kubicina volunteered for the Rochester Hills Pathway Project committee. For the National Trails Day Garlic Mustard Pull – Ms. Steele, Ms. Bowyer, Ms. Russell, Ms. Young and Mr. Becker all volunteered. Mr. Ferriolo volunteered for recruitment for the Labor Day Bridge Walk event. Chairperson Becker thanked everyone for volunteering.

**UPDATE: Southeast Rochester Property Advisory Committee Report:** Chairperson Becker reported the committee is in the process of writing their report; hopefully it will be available at the next meeting.

**UPDATE: Trail Manager and Administrative Assistant Job Descriptions:** Chairperson Becker indicated the Personnel Committee has not been able to meet and there is no update.

**MANAGER’S REPORT:** Ms. Myers had nothing to add to her written report. Mr. McClure came forward and said when he previously mentioned the creek possibly changing to the north or the south, he noticed in the drawings the creek looks like it might be in different locations. He asked what the plans are for the soil under the bridge. The Commission will respond to Mr. McClure’s concerns.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** It was suggested a Resurfacing Committee may need to be resurrected to coordinate some of the projects that will happen in the next few years. The Oakland Township property that Orion Township purchased is still in negotiations with the DNR. Mr. Porter asked if there is a need for parking near Kern Road as Orion Township and Auburn Hills owns a parcel that may be available. Ms. Myers indicated any possible parking area would be of interest, especially for equestrian user parking. Mr. Porter will look into the possibility. Ms. Russell reported that the South Elizabeth sewage and water project is going well. She also reported there is a lot of graffiti on the Dinosaur Hill bridge and that there will be a dining event on Walnut Street in July. Ms. Steele reported Orion Township is submitting for a safety path grant along Clarkston Road to connect Camp Agawam to the Polly Ann Trail and eventually to the Paint Creek Trail. She would appreciate any emails of support.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon motion by Young, seconded by Zale, the Chairperson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEXT MEETING: April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. – City of Rochester Municipal Offices**

Respectfully submitted,

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KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

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ANDY ZALE, Trailways Secretary