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REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION
Rochester Municipal Offices
400 Sixth St., Rochester, Michigan 48307

CALL TO ORDER: The Tuesday, November 21, 2017 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker at 7:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Rock Blanchard, Susan Bowyer, Linda Gamage, Hank Van Agen

Voting Alternates Present: David Becker, Robin Buxar, Donni Steele

Non-Voting Alternates Present: None

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

Voting Members Absent: Brian Birney, Frank Ferriolo, Kim Russell, Jeff Stout

Alternates Absent: Ben Giovanelli, Chris Hagen, Jim Kubicina, Lynn Loeb, Martha Olijnyk, Richard Schultz

Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Absent: None

Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Alternate Absent: Shauna Brown

Others Present: Kristen Myers, Trail Manager, Sandi DiSipio, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All rose and recited the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Gamage, seconded by Buxar, *Moved*, to approve the November 21, 2017 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was heard.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes – October 17, 2017 Regular Meeting, approve and file
- b. Treasurers Report – October 2017, receive and file
- c. Resolution #2017-003 – 2018 Meeting Schedule, approve
- d. Resolution #2017-004 – 2018 Adopt A Trail Dates, approve

MOTION by Gamage, seconded by Van Agen, *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 \$14,919.21. This amount includes the recorder's fee for the September meeting, reimbursement to Orion Township for two bench installations, and reimbursement to City of Rochester for one bench installation, Chase Card Services for staff's new desktop and monitor, Mannik Smith Group for design engineering services for Bridge 33.7 renovation (payment has been received from Oakland Township), 3rd quarter staff shared copier costs, and Turner Sanitation for October vault toilet cleaning. Estimated unrestricted fund balance is estimated at \$93,000.

MOTION by Buxar, seconded by Blanchard, *Moved*, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$14,919.21 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

UPDATE: Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation: Ms. Myers indicated information about decisions made at the 10/18/17 Joint Meeting was included in the packet. The group decided on the Keystone Model, Vehicular Truss Bridge for the project, with the Timber Decking IPE Hardwood. They also discussed having Timber Rubbed Rail with Steel Shapes, which is the most aesthetic – more information forthcoming on the railings. What was not decided is the finish materials. There was a lot of discussion regarding galvanized versus weathering steel, the longevity, aesthetics and warranty. The group decided they would prefer having a galvanized substructure with weathering steel archway if possible. That way, the underneath of the bridge would be protected from the water elements so there would be no corrosion, but still have the look of the weathering steel. It appears this is not going to be an option. Ms. Myers sent an email regarding that yesterday. Then there was discussion about selecting weathering steel with a higher load rating. It was originally thought with a higher load rating, there would be more longevity and less corrosion, but that does not seem to be the case. Galvanized steel is the other option. Galvanized is great in terms of warranty, but aesthetically, it's really shiny. After a few years it would have a matte finish, but doesn't have a weathered look. Since that meeting, Ms. Myers received an email from the project manager that the Road Commission has signed off on the Joint Permit Application (JPA). Mr. Mikolajczyk said the JPA was reviewed by the Road Commission and approved for submittal to the MDEQ. The joint permit application has now been submitted to MDEQ and comments should be received within 90 days. Ms. Myers and Ms. Milos-Dale have spent a lot of time speaking with the project engineer about all these issues and the proper finish materials that should be considered. She provided everyone with photos of a 25-year old bridge that the engineer inspected two years ago. He wanted to give an idea of what could happen with the weathering steel material. There was no corrosion allowance and there was a lot of salt moisture in the area. If these same conditions exist, after 25 years, maintenance staff could be having trouble with a weathering steel bridge. To compensate for that, he suggests to go with a weathered steel with an H20 loading capacity (will allow for gravel haulers to cross the bridge). H10 is the minimum required - he is suggesting to go up to H20 for these trucks. He suggests having specifications that make the steel ½ inch thick, and also have a 3/8 inch corrosion allowance. The project manager feels this would get us the 75 years from this type bridge. If the group decides to go with the galvanized, he also suggests the H20 loading capacity specifying a 5/16 inch steel thickness and a 3/16 inch corrosion allowance. He feels this may have more corrosion resistance after galvanizing weathering steel is gone. If going with galvanized carbon steel – same thing, H20 loading, minimum 5/16 inch steel thickness with a 3/16 inch corrosion allowance. For the next meeting, Mr. Mikolajczyk is preparing a cost analysis with these three options to give everyone a clear picture of the cost implications. These numbers are coming from Contech. Because there is a meeting on 12/7, Ms. Myers wanted to get this information out for everyone to consider and see if there are any questions that can be answered prior to that meeting. The December 7th meeting will be at the Township Hall from 8:00 – 9:00 AM. The hope is this will be a quick meeting because everyone will have in advance, all the information in order to compare costs between the options. The final design meeting will be on December 19th prior to the Commission's next meeting. Ms. Myers has spoken with Mr. McClure who still has questions regarding the bridge design, and they will meet Monday morning. He will submit a list of questions. If Ms. Myers can't answer them, hopefully there is enough time to get the questions to the project engineer to have answers for that meeting. If the questions are received prior to the meeting, Ms. Myers will send them to the members – she wants to make sure that being the closest property owner to the bridge, Mr. McClure gets answers to his questions. Mr. Blanchard asked if the thickness of the steel and load are increased if the manufacturer will increase the warranty. Ms. Myers responded if it's galvanized steel, it will still be 35 years. Information is

not available on the weathering steel, but Ms. Myers will ask. Ms. Steele is concerned about the actual contractor putting in the materials and what his opinion is on the materials. Staff only has the engineering perspective, and not the contractor's. Ms. Myers feels that MDOT would have a lot more experience with this as they will be doing the bidding on the project. The contractor will have to guarantee the work. Ms. Myers will check with MDOT on this issue. It was suggested to survey surrounding communities to see how their weathered steel bridges have fared. Ms. Myers sent the members a list of all the Contech bridges in the State of Michigan detailing whether they are weathering steel or galvanized. Ms. Myers will contact Mannik & Smith relative to this.

Mr. McClure, 5660 N. Livernois, Oakland Township, MI indicated his thoughts are that he and his wife Ann would put together a list of bullet points on their concerns and at the Monday meeting, have Ms. Myers answer them if she can and if so, cross them off the list. If not, they will still need to be answered. Chairperson Becker reminded Mr. McClure of the December 7th meeting, where answers can be given to unanswered questions. He asked if the weathering steel is the same as Cor-ten, and if this is a registered name. He invited Ms. Buxar and Mr. Ferriolo to their property to look at the bridge. Anyone is welcome to visit his property to look at his issues. He indicated this is a special site with problems. Ms. Myers clarified that Cor-ten is a trademark name for weathering steel. The Commission thanked Mr. McClure for his input. Ms. Buxar indicated that Mr. Ferriolo is out of town, and will return right after Thanksgiving, and they are planning to visit the site.

UPDATE: Village of Lake Orion Membership: Chairperson Becker indicated this update also includes the acquisition of the new trail from Atwater to Children's Park. He recommended everyone visit the trail as it's beautiful and near completion. He feels if the Commission can arrange to acquire it, it would be a positive addition to the PCT. There has been only one meeting in the last two months. The subcommittee is waiting for a proposed license or easement proposal from the Village of Lake Orion for consideration by the committee and eventually to the Commission. That has not yet been received. The committee is also waiting for comments from the Trailways attorney and some discussion on the nature of the proposed interlocal between Village and Orion Township. Things are happening, but slowly. It was Mr. Becker's hope that there would be a report forthcoming to the Commission by December, but more likely in January. He is very positive and feels things are going very well and a nice recommendation will be brought back to the Commission. Details are still being worked out. He pointed out that all the committee meetings are public, are announced on the website and everyone is invited to attend.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL: National Trails Day 2018: Ms. Myers indicated Ms. Gray has been working on ideas for the June 2nd National Trails Day event next year and provided a memo with suggestions. Staff knows the Commission would like to do something to celebrate this event. If Mannik & Smith's schedule stays on track, potential construction's going to begin early May. If it's delayed, it will be early June. Staff is trying to come up with ideas of things to celebrate the trail in the area, but not have to worry about navigating through construction zones. Ms. Gray has put together three ideas – these are not the only things, and the Commission is welcome to add any suggestions. Based on the construction schedule next year, staff wants to make sure it's an appropriate event that will not create more problems. Suggestions are a garlic mustard pull, which was a success in 2016, but was hard to identify as the plant had already gone to bloom. This plant has been blooming early and June 2nd may be too late to have an effective pull. It is recommended the pull be conducted a few weeks earlier, so the date may have to be changed. Another suggestion was a ribbon-cutting at the new Lake Orion trail extension. The DDA and the business district could be involved. It was also suggested to have "celebration stations" along the trail - near the Gallagher trailhead or at the Cider Mill. She contacted Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve – they are willing to send staff out for 5 hours for \$250 to provide a craft. If doing hiking sticks, they would provide all the supplies. If the Commission provides

T-shirts for a stenciling craft, they will provide the supplies. The Friends Group would probably be happy to help. A free lunch could be offered either through the Cider Mill or the food truck Mean Weanie. The owner of RJ's and Sir Pizza has expanded their business and wants to encourage people to travel Tienken Road from the trail to visit. He could be stationed at the Tienken trailhead and is open to more discussions. An anonymous trail supporter has offered to purchase free coloring books to hand out to children. This could be a custom book incorporating trail etiquette. She hesitates to have a run or cycling event because of the construction. It is hoped to finalize an idea by the January meeting, so the planning could begin. The Commission thanked Ms. Gray for her work on these ideas. Ms. Gamage commented the goal of the American Hiking Society for NTD was included in the memo, and likes the idea of having a muscle-powered activity to connect people to trails. She knows construction may impact a section of the trail, but that still leaves a few sections open for an activity. She favors a family-oriented walk or bike event. One of the Master Plan goals is to connect the trails. With the extension into Lake Orion getting closer to the Polly Ann, this section of the trail would be good to have an event. The PCT also connects to the Clinton River Trail. She asked if the Commission has considered a joint event on the connections to the trails. Ms. Myers said the only option would be the Clinton River Trail because there is not a connection with the Polly Ann yet. Ms. Myers will check with the Clinton River Trail group to see if they have the capacity to have a joint event. The Rochester Police Department Bike Safety event is the same day – maybe a joint event could be explored. If the hiking stick event is held, then participants could use them to walk on the trail. The ribbon-cutting could also be in conjunction with a walk in that section of the trail. Ms. Myers hesitates to have two separate locations unless enough volunteers can be secured. A children's event could take place at Children's Park or a walk to Clarkston-Kern could be planned, in conjunction with the ribbon-cutting. It was suggested to consider a Recognition Ceremony as it's been quite some time since the Commission has had one. Mr. Van Agen and Ms. Buxar both commented that Dinosaur Hill sponsors wonderful family-oriented events. Ms. Myers added that the Labor Day event is always in Rochester, maybe this year because of trail construction, the NTD events take place at the north end of the trail. She also stated that CJ's Café in downtown Orion has donated lunches in the past for participants of the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail cycling event, the Paint Creek Crawl. Ms. Bowyer likes the ribbon cutting on the new extension, and have people walk or ride back to the Cider Mill or Clarkston-Kern and get a coloring book. Ms. Steele suggested having the food truck at Clarkston-Kern, have everyone walk there for lunch and then walk back as there is enough staging area. Chairperson Becker suggested having something to do with a photography contest as long as it doesn't put pressure on the staff. Photos could be taken of the beauty of the trail as a way to get in touch with the trail and then judged by volunteer photography professionals. Ms. Myers recommended that if a contest is held and judged by volunteer professionals, the Commission should not override their decisions. It was suggested photos could be taken and posted on Instagram or Facebook, with hashtags for National Trails Day and Paint Creek Trail, and an actual contest that requires judging would not be necessary. Perhaps something could be done with birding to honor Mr. Makris. Ms. Bowyer reminded the members she donated a few birdhouses last year. Ms. Myers stated there is \$500 in the budget with the hope of getting \$500 in sponsorships. The Commission was thanked for their input and has provided enough ideas for staff to work with. An update will be given at the December or January meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Ms. Myers added nothing in addition to her written report. As Ms. Myers is Chair of the TWLA, it was suggested that any pertinent information coming out of those meetings be provided to the Commission in her written manager's report.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Ms. Steele indicated a bill has been passed at the legislative level allowing electric motors on bicycles on the trail as of January 28th. The only way to get out of allowing electric bikes on the trail, is to actually opt out. Polly Ann Trail is having a public

meeting in January to opt out. Mr. Mathisen reported the Orion trail extension is open all the way to Kroger at M-24 and Elizabeth streets, with landscaping scheduled for spring. Chairperson Becker acknowledged that the Lake Orion subcommittee has been working very hard on their recommendation, the meetings are open to the public with everyone invited, and thanked everyone involved for their extensive work on behalf of the Commission. Happy Thanksgiving to all!!

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion by Blanchard, seconded by Buxar, the Chairperson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: December 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. – Paint Creek Cider Mill

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

HANK VAN AGEN, Secretary

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