



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, MI 48306
(248) 651-9260
(248) 601-0106 (FAX)
www.paintcreektrail.org

REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

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

CALL TO ORDER: The Tuesday October 18, 2016 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker at 7:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Susan Bowyer (*enter 7:05 p.m.*), Frank Ferriolo, Linda Gamage, Neal Porter, Alice Young, Andy Zale

Voting Alternates Present: David Becker, Lynn Loeb

Non-Voting Alternates Present: Martha Olijnyk, Donni Steele (*enter 7:03 p.m.*)

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

Voting Members Absent: Rock Blanchard, Kim Russell

Alternates Absent: Mike Bailey, Ben Giovanelli, Jim Kubicina, Lisa Sokol, Richard Schultz

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All rose and recited the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Loeb, seconded by Young, *Moved*, to approve the October 18, 2016 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Minutes – September 20, 2016 Regular Meeting, approve and file

b. Treasurers Report – September 2016, receive and file

MOTION by Young, seconded by Zale, *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 \$981.67. In addition to the recorder's monthly fee, this amount includes half the cost for Spalding DeDecker Engineering's professional services for the MNRTF Grant Accessibility Workshop assistance, staff's 3rd quarter shared copier costs and the Facebook advertisement for the Labor Day Bridge Walk event. Estimated unrestricted fund balance is approximately \$90,000.

MOTION by Gamage, supported by Loeb, *Moved*, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$981.67 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: Recommendations for Trail Improvements – Friends of the Paint Creek

Trail: Ms. Myers welcomed the many members of the Friends Group present and thanked them for the refreshments they provided. The Friends Group has done a lot of fund raising the last few years and have completed some trail improvement projects, working with donors for the drinking fountain and fix-it stations. The fund balance is getting high, and it's time to start putting this money to use. At their last meeting, there was a brain-storming session on improvements the Friends Group would like to see on the trail. A memo has been provided listing recommendations, including signage issues and a bench inventory showing locations where more might be needed. Ms. Myers is looking for initial feedback from the Commission. A sub-committee could be formed to help develop a goals list that the Friends Group can use for improvements in 2017. Mr. Jim VanDoorn, President of the Friends Group, 3441 Innsbrook Dr., Rochester Hills, thanked the Commission for allowing the Group to attend the meeting. The Group has decided it's time to complete some trail improvements. They are anxious to make the trail more beautiful than it is and are looking for some direction. Chairman Becker suggested the Commission discuss each suggestion listed in the memo, and hopes a sub-committee will be formed to work with the Friends Group to prioritize the recommendations.

David Moutrie Memorial Project – this project currently has \$3,576 in restricted funds. Ms. Myers would like this project as a priority as it's been discussed for four years. It was scheduled for the Tienken Pathway, but with delays in the development, the Friends Group is recommending this project be considered for the Flagstar Picnic Area with an educational kiosk or something interactive, or another area on the trail. After discussion, it is the consensus that the Flagstar location may be the better option for this project. **Tienken Pathway Project** – the Friends Group has \$7,000 in restricted funds for this project, \$5,000 from the Rochester Junior Women's Club for a native plant garden and educational aspects of it. If we do have to wait for the full resurfacing, these monies will be available to complete the enhancements. **Trail Identification and Road Crossing Signage** – Ms. Myers indicated the sign at the Tienken trailhead was removed during the road reconstruction and has not been replaced. Rochester Hills should replace this sign as they said it would be replaced as part of the road project. Another sign could be used at Adams. The sign at Ludlow needs updating. The road crossing signs are worn, peeling and not very attractive – they should be redesigned. It would be nice to have updated, uniform signage. There is a lack of signage for our trail everywhere. There are numerous signs for the Clinton River Trail, probably provided by the communities and not their Friends Group. A standard identification sign should be developed for the trail. The sub-committee could look into this issue. **Benches** – The Friends Group created a report about the existing benches and the need for an additional six in areas that are lacking, if the Commission decides to reopen the bench donation program. Currently, there are eight people on the waiting list for bench donations. This would not cost the Commission or the Friends Group anything. It was suggested to check if there is a standard location for bench placement on other trails. Mr. Louis Carrio and his wife Eva completed the bench report and stated there is a shortage of west facing benches to benefit users walking in the fall. Mr. Paul Miller suggested benches are needed at Foley Pond and elsewhere along the trail but keep the ADA requirements in mind. **Smart Phone App** – Ms. Myers thought it would be great to find a volunteer to develop an app to have maps of the trail and list points of interest and restaurants along the trail. If this app was developed, paper maps of the trail could be reduced. It is the consensus this is a great idea. It could be incorporated and interactive with the website. Mr. Louis Carrio indicated that a Trail Link application already has a version of the map, along with maps for many other trails. Ms. Anne Jahn added that a smart app could be linked to the proposed signage for the trail. It was noted that Google Street View offers a backpack that someone can take on a hiking tour – perhaps someone can use that and photograph everything on the trail. **Bike Fix-it Station at Atwater Trailhead** – Ms. Myers indicated the Friends would like to locate a station there. There is a bike-rack no one uses which could be

moved. In its place, a concrete pad could be installed for a fix-it station, \$600 is already earmarked for this. New Brochure/Map Update – This will be discussed later tonight. New Orion Road Parking Lot Amenities – Ms. Myers reported that Oakland Township Parks acquired some property along Orion Road that will be used for a parking area. This is scheduled in the OTPRC 2017 budget. The Friends Group would like to help with some amenities for this parking area; picnic tables or benches. It would be nice to get water there – a hand-pump if city water is not available. Southeast Rochester Property Development – Ms. Myers indicated the Friends Group has indicated they can assist with funding of some of the development elements. More information on this project will be available in the next few months. Newsletters – Ms. Myers stated there is not an electronic presence in terms getting information out other than social media. A friendly email blast can be developed that people can subscribe to. A paper newsletter can be considered on a trial basis to see how effective it is to get information out. Maintenance Improvement Recommendations – All recommendations seem important; especially the pavement crossings to make it safer for users. The deck edge at Foley Pond is very important because it is hazardous to cyclists. Every recommendation should be reviewed. The Friends Group was thanked for all their work; they are a critical part of the trail and the Commission is very appreciative of what they are doing. Hopefully in the next few months, actions can be taken on recommendations.

Two sub-committees were formed: Trail Improvements Committee – consisting of Ms. Young, Ms. Bowyer, Ms. Myers and Mr. Becker. The Sign/Branding Committee – consisting of Ms. Olijnyk, Ms. Loeb, Ms. Gamage, Ms. Myers, Mr. VanDoorn and Mr. Zale.

DISCUSSION: Paint Creek Trail Brochure Updates & Redesign: Ms. Myers indicated there are 1,500 brochures left out of 30,000 that were ordered in 2012. Things have changed and the brochure needs to be updated. It was suggested that information about the Iron Belle Trail should be added. This brochure was designed in 2009 by HMS Manufacturing in Troy as an in-kind service. In 2012, minor changes were done to the map that a volunteer completed. A complete re-design should be looked at in the next six months. Trail courtesy should be more prominent, the map needs to be updated with drinking fountains and fix-it stations. A short batch of brochures could be ordered until a complete re-design is completed. Kristen Wiltfang from Oakland County is willing to help with the map and brochure design if there is not a tight time-frame. It was suggested a short run of brochures be ordered until future changes are realized. Brochures are lasting a lot longer now as people are going more electronic. If 5,000 or 6,000 are ordered now to get us through before a complete re-do of the brochure is done – including the Lake Orion extension, the Cider Mill connector pathway, the Southeast Rochester property, the Bald Mountain connector and the Tienken Pathway, that should be fine. In addition to along the trail, brochures are distributed to the Royal Park Hotel, the library, the Chamber of Commerce and each municipality. The Commission was asked to review the brochure and send suggested changes to Ms. Myers via email. These suggested changes can be brought to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION: AT&T License Agreements – Request to Renegotiate: A memo is included in the packet. Ms. Myers indicated AT&T has been reviewing all their licenses. They have requested to cancel or modify all five licenses they have with the Commission. They indicated three locations no longer exist, and two locations have been moved to the road right-of-way (ROW). Ms. Myers will travel to the three locations to confirm if the equipment is there or not. Former attorney Makris indicated when the railroad owned the ROW, they owned clear across the road. She provided maps of the two locations with equipment located in the ROW, confirming that the Commission owns the ROW that crosses Tienken Road and Silverbell Road. Ms. Myers sent this information to AT&T and indicated that two of the licenses should still be active because they are on trail property. She contacted Attorney Hamameh to see what it would take to get a

handle on the situation as there is no paperwork on file, and Mr. Schroeck indicated in the past he would not be able to assist with this type of request. Staff has gone through Mr. Makris' files and found nothing. Ms. Hamameh indicated it would take 2-3 hours of time to figure out what is going on, which equals \$375.00. There is \$1,500 in the unallocated legal services line item. Ms. Myers does not want to set precedent regarding the sanctity of trail property. It was suggested that AT&T provide the work order allowing the removal of equipment from the three sites that may no longer exist.

MOTION by Porter, seconded by Ferriolo, to authorize the Trail Manager to engage the services of Ms. Hamameh relative to this situation.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Ms. Myers had nothing to add to her written report.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: The Cider Mill connector from Flagstar Bank is great. The Commission expressed gratitude for the Friends Group and all the work they are proposing. It was suggested that a memorial for John Makris be considered by the Friends Group.

ADJOURNMENT:

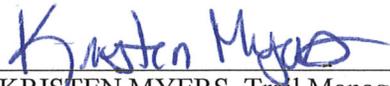
Upon motion by Young, seconded by Gamage, the Chairperson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: November 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. – Paint Creek Cider Mill

Respectfully submitted,



KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager



ANDY ZALE, Trailways Secretary