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REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

City of Rochester Municipal Offices, 400 Sixth Street
Rochester, Oakland County, Michigan 48307

CALL TO ORDER: The Tuesday September 15, 2015 meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Rock Blanchard, Frank Ferriolo, Linda Gamage, Stephanie Morita, Neal Porter (*enter 7:03 p.m.*), Alice Young, Andy Zale

Voting Alternates Present: None

Non-Voting Alternates Present: None

Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Present: None

Voting Members Absent: Kim Russell

Alternates Absent: Mike Bailey, David Becher, Dale Hetrick, Lynn Loebs, Martha Olijnyk, Steve Sage, Lisa Sokol, Donni Steele, 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 Morita, seconded by Zale, *Moved*, to approve the September 15, 2015 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Minutes – August 18, 2015 Regular Meeting, approve and file

b. Treasurers Report – August 2015, receive and file

MOTION by Young, seconded by Gamage, *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 \$15,727.92. In addition to the recorder's monthly fee, this amount includes restroom cleaning at Clarkston/Kern, 3rd quarter wages and FICA for the Trail Manager, Administrative Assistant and Bile Patroller positions, office supplies and name plates for new Commissioners. The estimated unrestricted fund balance is \$73,000.

MOTION by Young, supported by Morita, *Moved*, to approve the invoices presented for payment in the amount of \$15,727.92 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

UPDATE – 10th Annual Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk and Run: Ms. Myers reported the event was very successful with 375-400 participants raising about \$1,300 for the Friends Group. Face painters and balloon artists were present. Mr. Ferriolo was the photographer and will send a collage link to all Commissioners. A trail courtesy flyer was included in the backpack that was given out. Ms. Myers thanked all the volunteers, the Rochester Police that assisted at the Ludlow crossing, the bike patroller and the Oakland County Mounted Patrol.

DISCUSSION – Commission events in 2016: Ms. Myers reported that next year, the Friends Group doesn't want to provide all the volunteer support for the Labor Day event. They want to enjoy their holiday. The Friends Group has coordinated the Paint Creek Crawl (occurring in May) for a number of years which is very labor intensive. Unfortunately most of the Friends Group are retired and are gone during the winter when all the planning takes place. There are not enough active members to take on the role of coordinating this event, so it has fallen on the staff to plan. Next year, the Friends Group would like to collaborate with the Motor City Brew Tours on their Cruisin' for the Trail tour that takes place the first weekend in May. Ms. Myers would prefer not to plan an event in June as she has two graduations that month. The Friends Group is also thinking about a Beer, Bike & BBQ event the weekend after Labor Day. Historically, the Commission has held several annual events, and the Friends Group is still handling health fairs and farmers markets. She asked for input from the Commission on what events they want for next year. If the Commission wants to hold the Labor Day walk, we need to recruit 12 volunteers. Mr. Ferriolo indicated he would deal with the volunteer recruitment out of Oakland Township if he had assistance from other members. Since Ms. Myers is the expert, she could provide planning direction to the others. Mr. Ferriolo feels at least two events should be held annually, maybe even a third event in July at the Cider Mill. Ms. Myers indicated in order to plan three events, a part-time event coordinator needs to be hired as volunteers are hard to come by. After discussion, it is the consensus to have two events annually including the Labor Day walk as it is a family event. Possibly the Commission could secure a co-chair to run the event to alleviate the Friends Group and Trail Manager's time commitment. An event for National Trails Day that is minimally labor intensive should be looked at, possibly a "help pick up trash" event. The comment was made there is nothing wrong with holding one big event per year. Ms. Myers was asked to draft up a plan of what she needs in terms of volunteers and a plan of action in order to make next year's events work. This will be discussed at the November meeting.

DISCUSSION – Naming Policy: After a previous discussion whether to name the proposed Tienken Pathway the David R. Moutrie Pathway, and the concern that others may want to name improvements after someone, Ms. Myers would like a preliminary discussion whether the Commission needs to develop a naming policy. Chairman Becker feels the Commission doesn't need a policy, because he trusts the judgment of the Commission on a case by case basis for anything that comes up for approval. If a project is funded with MNRTF or other State/Federal Funding, it can't be named after a person. The Tienken Pathway project is funded without state or federal funding, so it could be named after someone without penalty from the MNRTF. A memo regarding other trail policies was provided in the packet. The Commission has been without a policy, but some sort of guidelines may be important because of unintended consequences. This is the first time a request has been made to name a side trail amenity after someone. It was brought up that this issue had previously been discussed and it was thought that a consensus was reached. Ms. Myers explained no decision was made in the previous discussion, so it is before the Commission again. Perhaps a plaque honoring a person could be placed along the trail where an improvement has been made, rather than naming a portion of the trail after someone. Ms. Myers' take on this issue is that if the Commission wants to have a policy, it be very simple – the Commission determines on a case by case basis, and if someone is deceased, they must have made a significant contribution to the trail or community, and there be a minimum

time span, e.g., two or three years deceased. Comments were made that a person doesn't necessarily have to be deceased. Consensus needs to be ascertained first on whether the Commission is in favor of naming a portion of the trail after someone - then that will determine the direction of how the policy is drafted. The subject pathway is not part of the trail, it is a side path off the trail. Money has been donated in Mr. Moutrie's name, and if used for interpretative/educational signage, Ms. Myers feels his name needs to be on the project. This item will be placed on the November agenda for a decision on whether or not portions of the trail could be named for someone. Ms. Myers was asked to draft a preliminary policy. A copy of the minutes where this issue was previously discussed should also be included in the packet.

MANAGER'S REPORT: In addition to the written report, Ms. Myers stated there is an October 1st Trails, Water, and Land Alliance Fall Festival, registration is still open. She will be meeting with members of Kings Cove at the end of September to display the proposed side path and answer any questions. Rochester Hills will attempt to install the crushed asphalt surface this year. Ms. Myers will have surgery on October 15th and be out of the office 2-3 weeks. Ms. Gray will keep the Commission informed.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Mr. Porter reported there is no conclusion on the DNR Oakland Township property for the Bald Mountain connector and would appreciate any assistance in getting this issue resolved. It is State Trails Week next week and many events are planned.

REQUEST TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LITIGATION:

MOTION by Young, seconded by Zale, *Moved*, to enter closed session at 8:13 p.m.

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Porter, Young, Zale

Nays: Morita

MOTION CARRIED.

The Regular Meeting was called back to order at 8:24 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion by Morita seconded by Zale, the Vice-Chairperson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: October 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. – Paint Creek Cider Mill Building

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

ANDY ZALE, Trailways Secretary