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

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

CALL TO ORDER: The Tuesday October 21, 2014 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker at 7:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Rock Blanchard (*enter 7:10 p.m.*), Linda Gamage, Stephanie Morita, Kim Russell, Maureen Thalmann, Alice Young, Andy Zale

Voting Alternates Present: Donni Steele

Non-Voting Alternates Present: David Becker, Martha Olijnyk

Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Present: None

Voting Members Absent: Neal Porter

Alternates Absent: Mike Bailey, Cathy Daldin, Richard Schultz, Danielle Shurkus, Lisa Sokol, Michael Webber

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All rose and recited the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Young, seconded by Thalmann, ***Moved***, to approve the October 21, 2014 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Heidi Peters, 1247 Kern Rd., came forward, indicated she has lived on the trail for 10 years. This year she noticed dead areas along the Oakland Twp. portion of the trail. Upon calling the Oakland Twp. Parks Department, she realized they were spraying Round-Up. The other communities are not using any herbicides along the trail. She asked that the township stop spraying herbicides. Ms. Peters was thanked for her comments, and Commissioner Zale indicated that the Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Stewardship Committee is developing a draft policy to address this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes – September 16, 2014 Regular Meeting, approve and file
- b. Treasurers Report – September 2014, receive and file

The minutes were removed from the consent agenda.

MOTION by Morita, seconded by Young, ***Moved***, that the consent agenda be approved as amended.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Correction to Minutes: Page 3, second Motion – add the word “Revised” before “Motion”.

MOTION by Young, seconded by Zale, *Moved*, that the Minutes of the September 16, 2014 Regular Meeting be approved as amended.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: Thalmann

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES: Ms. Myers presented the invoices in the amount of \$4,524.47. In addition to the normal monthly expenses, this amount includes the monthly service fee for the portable restroom at Tienken, Oakland County Mounted Patrol Services, staff's 3rd quarter copier shared costs, livingLAB Professional Services for the pathway concept design, monthly service fee for the vault restroom cleaning, and the Trail Manager's 3rd quarter mileage reimbursement. The estimated unrestricted fund balance is \$55,723.

MOTION by Young, seconded by Steele, *Moved*, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$4,524.47 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: Contracted Services Agreement with the City of Rochester: A complete copy of the new agreement incorporating changes suggested last month has been provided to the members. After a short discussion, it was agreed the agreement should be forwarded to the City of Rochester for their review and approval. Ms. Myers indicated she had a meeting with Mr. Vettraino. Rochester is on board with what is proposed and is not in a hurry to approve it. It was suggested in Item #4, the term of the agreement be changed to a year commencing from either today's date or possibly January 1st; that could be up to the City of Rochester.

MOTION by Zale, seconded by Russell, *Moved*, to approve the service agreement as presented and forward the document to the City of Rochester for review and approval.

Ayes: Blanchard, Gamage, Russell, Steele, Thalmann, Young, Zale

Nays: Morita

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: Trail Etiquette Program: Ms. Myers reported a lot of complaints are received, mostly about speeding cyclists. She placed a sandwich board sign on the trail advising "stay to right, pass on the right, ring a bell or say on your left". This sign started a lengthy conversation on Facebook – most people agreeing with the message. Ms. Myers got prices on the purchase of bike bells that could be handed out next year. She also got prices on dog leashes that could be sold or given away. T-shirts that have text on the back regarding etiquette or courtesy could also be sold to wear on the trail. Perhaps a contest could be held having people film a trail etiquette video. The winner could be announced at the recognition ceremony. Ms. Myers is suggesting the recognition ceremony be the same day as the crawl event, June 6, 2015 - National Trails Day. Ms. Myers also drafted an etiquette brochure that could be put in the brochure boxes along the trail. The Commission brainstormed different ideas. After a brief discussion, it was suggested that the bells be purchased now to be given away at the recognition ceremony, the dog leashes are probably not a good idea as dogs need to be leashed anyway, the video contest is a good idea, the brochure could be a single page document rather than a folded brochure, the T-shirts with courtesy messages would be worn and could be effective, and any other ideas could be pursued at a later date. Perhaps the Commission could partner with the police patrol when they go to the schools or attend the spring open house at the Rochester police station held every year. The Friends Group is willing to donate money toward this effort, and will discuss the idea at a future meeting. The consensus of the Commission is to move forward with pursuing this program, but needs to coordinate where all the different items will be given out before spending money to purchase them. Ms. Myers indicated there is \$750 in the 2014 promotions budget to order the bells this year and an additional \$750 is in the budget for promotional items next year.

MOTION by Russell, seconded by Morita, *Moved*, to move forward with the bell project this year at a purchase cost of up to \$750, introduce the program idea to the Friends Group, and research opportunities for partnership and other program options in the future.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: Administrative Approvals of Temporary Use Permit Applications: Ms. Morita feels the approvals could be done administratively, and at the next meeting Ms. Myers could report which permits she approved instead of it being on the consent agenda. This would save the applicant time. Ms. Myers suggested it could be part of her Manager's Report. She does not see an advantage for first time applicants appearing before the Commission. After a short discussion, it was decided to have first time applicants appear before the Commission as an agenda item to explain their event and answer any questions, and repeat applications can be approved by the manager and listed on her Manager's Report. Ms. Myers was asked to revise the policy to reflect these suggestions and bring it back next month for review.

MANAGER'S REPORT: In addition to her written report, Ms. Myers stated there is a copy of the signed easement for the Oakland Township properties in the packet. Also, there is information from Vector Pipeline who contacted the office wanting to know if it's all right to have equipment on the trail to complete property survey work. They want to expand a current natural gas pipeline under the ITC lines in Oakland Township. She spoke with Chairman Becker about this issue. Vector Pipeline might be approaching the Commission next year to talk about a license agreement for the expanded pipeline going under the trail. Ms. Myers contacted Ms. Leven at Oakland Township; she knew nothing about pipeline expansion in the township. The current pipeline is 55 miles long. The survey work might be completed next week weather permitting. We are just approving the survey work, not the pipeline expansion. Mr. Becker sees nothing wrong with completing the survey, and Ms. Myers has given them permission to do the work as long as the trail remains open. It was suggested that since this is coming, the Commission needs to look at what type of attorney needs to be hired to write the license agreement. It was confirmed that Vector Pipeline will leave the trail as they found it. Ms. Myers does not feel the work will do any damage to the trail. Ms. Morita explained the discussions Rochester Hills has had over oil drilling, and feels strongly that the survey work should not be done – there is nothing in writing about exactly what they are doing. She feels the Commission needs to be very careful about the position they are taking. The ITC license agreement should be reviewed to see if it allows this type of work. Ms. Myers explained this is a natural gas pipeline, not gas or oil, and natural gas pipelines already exist across the trail. After a lengthy discussion, some Commissioners have problems with letting the survey work be done, it was agreed this issue should not be taken lightly and more information about the overall intent of the project is necessary before granting approval for the survey work.

MOTION by Morita, seconded by Gamage, *Moved*, to stop the survey work from moving forward, and to review this project again when additional information is available.

Ayes: Gamage, Morita, Russell

Nays: Steele, Thalmann, Young, Zale

Abstain: Blanchard

MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: There has been some vandalism in Rochester's Municipal Park; this is being handled by the police department. A spring field trip to the pathway project location was suggested. The Polly Ann Trail is hosting a fund-raising run this Saturday. There is a fund-raising Halloween party/dinner dance at the Orion Senior Center this Friday, costumes optional. There are still tickets available for the wine-tasting event on October 30th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion by Young, seconded by Gamage, the Chairperson adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. – Paint Creek Cider Mill

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

ANDY ZALE, Trailways Secretary