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**REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION  
Via Teleconferencing – GoToMeeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Tuesday, May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

**Voting Members Present:** Rock Blanchard, Frank Ferriolo, Linda Gamage, Steve Sage, Dan Simon, Donni Steele, Jeff Stout, David Walker

**Voting Alternates Present:** None

**Non-Voting Alternates Present:** David Becker, Robin Buxar, Theresa Munglioli, Martha Olijnyk, Clara Pinkham

**Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Present:** None

**Voting Members Absent:** None

**Alternates Absent:** Chris Barnett, Ben Giovanelli, Chris Hagen

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

**Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Alternate Absent:** Vacant

**Others Present:** Melissa Ford, Trail Manager, Chris Gray, Assistant Trail Manager, Sandi DiSipio, Recording Secretary

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairperson Blanchard explained the purpose of the electronic meeting is to maintain social distancing and comply with the Michigan Governor's Executive Order 2020-21. The meeting will be held electronically by video conferencing through GoToMeeting.com. The video conference can be accessed by downloading the app GoToMeeting. The meeting number is 135162293. Public comment and questions will be accepted during the meeting at an appropriate time. Please silence your audio and wait for direction from the Chair of the meeting. Please be advised there will be a three (3) minute time limit for public comments. You may also send correspondence regarding this meeting to the Paint Creek Trailways Commission office, addressed to 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Michigan 48306. You may also email your comments or concerns to [manager@paintcreektrail.org](mailto:manager@paintcreektrail.org). A copy of the meeting materials may be found on the Commission's website or may be reviewed at the Commission's office by appointment. Please also use the aforementioned contact for any questions on this process.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairperson Blanchard would like to add discussion of the Moutrie Pollinator Garden. This will be discussed after the 2020 Bike Patrol item.

**MOTION** by Becker, seconded by Simon, ***Moved***, to approve the May 19, 2020 agenda as amended.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes – April 21, 2020 Regular Meeting, approve and file
- b. Treasurers Report – April 2020, receive and file

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES:** Ms. Ford presented the list of invoices totaling \$465.18. In addition to the recorder's fee, this amount includes credit card charges for postage, and the purchase of pet waste bags. Estimated unrestricted fund balance is \$96,000. Ms. Gamage asked how many waste bags were purchased, how long they will last and if they are biodegradable. Ms. Gray indicated 3,200 bags were purchased and should last  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the season and she is looking into a less expensive option as there was a surcharge added. They are not biodegradable as those are very expensive.

**MOTION** by Walker, seconded by Simon, *Moved*, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$465.18 and orders be drawn for payment.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Eagle Scout Project – Kiosk:** Mr. Zakaria Benchbana from Troup 125 in Rochester Hills, introduced himself and explained he submitted a plan to redo one of the kiosks on the trail. Mr. Walker asked if he decided on what type of wood that will be used. Mr. Benchbana indicated treated wood rather than cedar, but if the other kiosks are cedar, he can change to that. Mr. Walker asked if the sign would be consistent with what exists and if he would be flexible with either type of wood. Mr. Benchbana responded yes. Mr. Becker asked about the plywood that will be used. He wasn't clear because in the listed expenses, it didn't look like it included a plywood that would last long in wet weather. Mr. Becker asked if it was possible to get a good quality outside/marine plywood. Some of the trail millennial signs were done with plywood that didn't last very well and do not look good today. Mr. Benchbana quoted ground contact pressure treated pine. Mr. Blanchard said an alternative would be a marine plywood, which is more expensive. He suggested Mr. Benchbana check into the cost and possibly the Commission could cover the difference. Mr. Becker agreed that the Scout should check into this. He asked if the \$247 cost for the plywood was using the cedar wood or just for the legs, as he doesn't see a cost for the plywood. Mr. Benchbana said he found  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick plywood for \$35, so this should be added. Mr. Blanchard indicated \$35 for plywood would not be for a good outside plywood. Mr. Benchbana agreed and will check into the price of marine plywood. Mr. Simon suggested checking with Dillman & Upton. He also suggested the posts going into the ground be pressure treated posts with cedar above ground. If the posts don't look good, he could get some cedar one-by and skin the above ground posts – that way, the pressure treated would last longer below ground. Mr. Blanchard agreed as this would look much nicer. Mr. Becker said if this gets to be more expensive than Mr. Benchbana can get funds for, the Commission could think about making up some of the difference to get a better quality project. Mr. Walker thanked Mr. Benchbana for taking on this project and the Commission appreciates it and looks forward to the end result. We want the project to look good and be aesthetically appealing, but also want it to last a long time. The combination of the two woods, treated below ground and cedar above grade

is more appealing; hopefully we can come to an agreement with the different wood, and make a product that everyone will be proud of. Mr. Simon asked what type of fasteners will be used and suggested stainless steel screws. The scout indicated he will use stainless steel. Mr. Blanchard thanked Mr. Benchbana and asked if he had any questions for the Commission. As far as funding, Mr. Benchbana said he will try to get as much as he can to cover the project. Mr. Sage asked about the rental of the post hole digger, and asked if we could defer this cost through the municipality where the sign will be installed. Ms. Ford will check into this possibility. Ms. Mungioli asked what fundraising will be done towards this effort. Mr. Benchbana said he planned to do a can drive, but because of the current situation, he will just call friends and family for donations. Ms. Mungioli offered to donate her bottles if he is interested and suggested he contact other Commission Council members. Mr. Louis Carrio suggested a Go Fund Me account, and offered a contribution from the Friends Group. As far as a time line for the project, Mr. Benchbana indicated possibly the first or second week in June, depending on when things open up. Mr. Becker said the time line is before the next meeting, so Mr. Benchbana needs to coordinate closely with Ms. Ford to make sure the requests about the wood and other details get done. Ms. Pinkham asked if the scout needs any assistance with tools other than the post hole digger. Mr. Benchbana said he has access to the tools. Mr. Ferriolo said Mr. Benchbana was not present at the last meeting, and wants him to understand why it was important for him to be present tonight. He now has experience of a project by Committee, and thanked him for how he's handled the different directions received tonight and for his project. Mr. Blanchard asked if the Commission wants to approve any amount in case he needs it before the next meeting. Mr. Becker suggested leaving this to the discretion of the Trail Manager. Ms. Gamage agrees, but encourages Mr. Benchbana to raise the funds for the project. She hopes he's learned by participating tonight, the Commission is on a budget and doesn't have a significant amount of additional funding. The Commission is extremely happy when people come forward and want to do a project on the trail, but encourages him to fund the entire project. Mr. Benchbana said that is what he's planning to do. Mr. Blanchard indicated there are more Eagle Scouts out there that want to follow in Mr. Benchbana's footsteps; there is one right now that might be building a kiosk – possibly the two of them could work together. Ms. Ford indicated she received an email yesterday from a scout from Troup 356 in Rochester asking if there were any projects that could be done for his project. She thought maybe another kiosk could be done using the same plans – maybe the two scouts can work together on their efforts. Mr. Benchbana was asked to get with Ms. Ford. The Commission thanked him for his project and wished him good luck. Mr. Benchbana asked if he will be responsible for removing the old kiosk. Ms. Ford said it's the Clarkston/Kern kiosk that will be replaced, and she will talk with Orion's park staff about this.

**DISCUSSION: Limited Access Permit Request, 5680 N. Livernois, Oakland Township:**

Ms. Kori Steigerwald, 5680 N. Livernois, introduced herself and explained her husband Tom submitted the application and has been going back and forth with emails, but unfortunately, he's in the hospital and she's filling in. She lives near the new bridge and the back 1/3 of her property is on the other side of creek, between the creek and the trail. They are in the process of clearing that area of the yard of a lot of dead trees. They have lived there 4 years and the previous owner let that area go wild. They have spent a lot of time clearing out dead trees and have an enormous amount of chopped wood that needs to be disposed of, but have no way of getting over the creek to the other side. It could be burned, but it would probably take three years to get rid of it. Her husband asked if they could have use of the trail to bring in a pick-up truck and a trailer so the wood can be loaded up and driven out. They would do this when the trail was at its lowest capacity in terms of people using it, whenever that may be – during the week, at dusk, etc. That is their request. Mr. Stout said he visited the site, stated they have nice “lake front” property right now, and asked what is the means by which they will drive on the trail, load the wood and bring it back. He's looking at a brand new trail surface that has a lot of ruts in it from bicycles and

footprints, and the thought of having a pick-up truck or heavy equipment on the trail does not give him a good feeling. Ms. Steigerwald asked what the plans are for grading the trail now as she knows about the ruts because she walks the trail. If the Commission was to say they plan on grading it on June 4<sup>th</sup>, they could drive the truck the night before and remove the wood before the regrading. She indicated her husband submitted pictures of the wood. Ms. Gamage visited the property and said it's beautiful. She looked at how they access the trail, and it's different from what she pictured. The embankment on trail property leading up to the trail is extremely steep. She has concerns not only about driving a truck and trailer on the newly resurfaced trail, but also erosion up the bank. She understands the owner's predicament, and commented the Commission also received a picture of the clever pulley system they have over the river. She asked if there was any way the applicants could float some of the wood across the river back to their side of the property, and use their property to remove the wood. She is extremely concerned about what a truck would do to the new surface, as she believes Oakland Township has already graded their portion of the trail. Ms. Ford stated this is correct. Ms. Gamage said even with the regrading, there are still numerous ruts on the trail. She would hate to see further destructive rutting happen that can't be fixed. Ms. Olijnyk sympathizes with the applicant's situation, but feels there is no room to turn the truck around. She asked how long the wood removal would take and whether the trail could be closed for a non-emergency purpose. There are also liability issues with having a personal vehicle on the trail. She doesn't see a good way to approve this request without having a lot of other similar requests from homeowners who have a good reason to ask for access. Mr. Simon suggested getting a towing vehicle with the big fat turf tires, as they are low pressure and spread the weight out. They also have trailers with this type of tire. He also suggested waiting until August when the trail is dry, and if the stairs are in first they would have a way to get up the hill without doing too much damage to the embankment. Ms. Steigerwald added they are also asking permission to put in steps, but was told it could not be on tonight's meeting; it has to wait until next month. Mr. Steigerwald had submitted plans of how the steps are proposed. Mr. Blanchard indicated this request has to be reviewed by the Licensing Committee before bringing the request before the Commission. Ms. Ford indicated this request is being reviewed now by the Licensing Committee. Mr. Becker said he hoped Mr. Steigerwald is feeling better. He said the applicants would have to take responsibility for repairing any damage to the trail, so an agreement needs to be written so that's understood. He does not want to see the trail shut down, wants to see the least use of a vehicle as possible and assurance that there are not tree removals from the trail property. Even though the applicants want to remove the trees as soon as possible, Mr. Blanchard suggested maybe waiting until after a winter freeze to get on the trail without causing damage. In the meantime, they could cut the wood up smaller and use a smaller vehicle later when the ground is frozen to reduce damage. Mr. Stout agreed as there are times when the trail is frozen. It's going to be quite a process to get the wood up the embankment to the trail. His recommendation is to wait until winter. Ms. Buxar indicated she also lives on the creek. Typically if you wait until August, the creek will be low. With any downed trees, creek adjacent owners or a tree company usually drag them across the creek to private property. She agrees the embankment to the trail is very steep and is concerned about erosion. It may be easier to utilize a tree service and drag the wood across the creek. Mr. Walker visited the property and agreed there is a substantial amount of cut wood to be removed. The amount of work to move this up a steep hill to a trailer seems extremely difficult; he suggested hiring a professional. His primary concern is safety and the condition of the trail. He doesn't know how this can be done without closing the trail, and recommends waiting until winter. Also, the wood appears to be a lot of ash, which is a very heavy and dense wood. The amount of weight in a pick-up truck would destroy the condition of the trail. A smaller vehicle with ballooned tires might be OK at a different time of the year, not now. Mr. Ferriolo asked the applicant if there is a Plan B. Ms. Steigerwald said the alternative is to burn the wood. Mr. Ferriolo agrees this work needs to be done in the winter in order to protect the trail and that a vehicle with ballooned tires is better. He wouldn't approve

this request until we see what the stairs will look like as it may be the cause of a problem where someone can get hurt. Unless the wood sits there for five years, it will be very heavy; hiring a professional may be a good idea. He also agrees that an agreement be drawn up so the applicants know they are responsible for any damage to the trail, and the Commission is not liable in the case of an injury during this process. Ms. Steele asked if we're at the point to deny the license application at this time until we have further information and the request is resubmitted.

**MOTION** by Steele, (not seconded), *Moved*, to deny the license application until we have further information.

Mr. Ferriolo said it may be more appropriate to table or postpone the item until further information is received including the stair project, rather than denying the request, because eventually it could be approved. Mr. Becker feels tabling this request is the right thing to do according to Robert's Rules, because if we deny the motion, to try and undue the motion later is a little more complicated than simply postponing the request. Ms. Steele amended her motion.

**MOTION** by Steele, seconded by Ferriolo, *Moved*, to table the license application until we have further information to review it again.

Ms. Mungoli said (unintelligible) ... you can move it to a date certain, maybe to August, or deny the request. Tabling it does not let the applicant get back in August, you have to move it to a date certain in order to follow the rules. The applicant is not sure when they will be ready to return due to the stair application. Chairman Blanchard suggested October as it's closer to winter. Ms. Gamage asked the applicant if she is interested in talking to her husband about what has been discussed tonight and come back at a future date – she's not sure we need a motion at this time, as this was a discussion. She thinks the applicant could come back at a later date with a different proposal. Ms. Gamage asked if this is correct. Mr. Blanchard said yes. Ms. Steigerwald said she will talk to her husband about options. There are also dead trees on her property that hang over the trail, so they would like to cut them down as they are a potential hazard for trail users. Ms. Steele agreed to amend her motion, Mr. Ferriolo withdrew his second on the previous motion, and seconded the amended motion. Ms. Ford will send this recording to the applicants tomorrow. Mr. Simon suggested leaving the felled wood on the ground to provide shelter, food and nesting grounds for animals, as well as being a good steward to the land. Chairperson Blanchard reiterated to the applicant that the Commission wants to be a good neighbor and to help, but needs to look out for the trail and the safety of the users.

Amended Motion as Voted on:

**MOTION** by Steele, seconded by Ferriolo, *Moved*, to postpone and re-review the license application at the October 2020 meeting. If the applicant is not ready, the item can be pushed to a later meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION: 2020 Bike Patrol:** Ms. Ford indicated Mr. Dan Butterworth, the patroller, is on the phone, but not video. Ms. Ford wants to chat about bike patrol this year in light of the health crisis we're dealing with. In the packet, there is information about some of the protocols we're hoping to put into place in regard to sanitary measures, etc. Mr. Butterworth will take his temperature before he goes out to make sure he's healthy. There are also supplies, e.g., hand sanitizer and masks that will be provided to him. Mr. Blanchard had asked Ms. Ford to reach out to the member community's parks and DPW to see what they are doing in their parks and on the trail in regards to sanitizing garbage cans and other things that people may be touching. Most of them are not sanitizing those things – Orion Township will be doing this in their parks, but not on the trail. So this is not necessarily something that the bike patroller would be expected to do. Mr. Butterworth offered his thoughts for his schedule, since the trail is so busy. He is thinking of not

going out when it's super busy, like on the weekends. He's read articles about being downwind of someone coughing. He's not sure if it's safe for him to be out there on a bike. He's going to do it and try to stay away from people, but sees a lot of people congregating at light crossings. He's also noticed that people are not really walking single file. He tries to be on the trail one weekend day every week. Ms. Olijnyk commented the point of the bike patroller is interaction, and we need to think about what's best going forward for the summer. Do we expect him to enforce social distancing and mask wearing – she doesn't know if that's his job or not. We may want to consider a face shield for him. She asked if the bike fix-it stations are open for use; what about the water fountains and bathrooms, and if open, what's our obligation to sanitize them. Maybe we should block them off. We need to think about these things. Mr. Becker feels Mr. Butterworth should do whatever he feels is necessary and comfortable when he's interacting, and thinks he should be out on the trail when people are there educating them about distancing, not necessarily enforcing. It's his understanding that there is very little probability for transmission of this disease outside. Whatever the Commission insists on, we need to be cognizant of that. He would like to see what the Parks & Rec staff are doing about the tables, fix-it stations and water fountains. Mr. Stout said drinking fountains are closed off in the Township Hall, so he's not recommending opening water fountains unless there is a plan in place to sanitize them. The public restrooms are also closed. Ms. Ford said the one at Clarkston/Kern is closed. Mr. Sage said the one at Rochester Municipal Park is closed. Mr. Simon indicated all the playgrounds are roped off, and the trash cans are wiped down every day in Oakland Township. They have a staff member out patrolling the parks each day, and sanitizing trash cans and other things people touch. Mr. Blanchard feels we should follow what the parks are doing – not opening restrooms or water fountains, and roping off the fix-it stations. Some parks departments have had to cut back on staff, so we can't rely on them to go around and sanitize – it's not going to happen. If the municipalities are not opening restrooms in their parks, he doesn't feel we should be asking them to sanitize these items on the trail. We should keep restrooms and water stations closed until we get more direction from the State. Mr. Becker asked if the benches should be closed off with yellow tape or be sanitized, or just leave them alone. Mr. Ferriolo said that with possible restriction relaxations coming, we don't know where we will be a month from now. There's less of a chance for contamination outside, and most people outside don't wear a mask. We may be handcuffing ourselves a little too much right now because we're affected by these restrictions. He feels Mr. Butterworth should approach this situation based on how he feels – whatever he is comfortable with. Next month, restrictions may be looser. Relative to the fix-it stations or benches, Mr. Blanchard said we could put up signs indicating they are not sanitized, but he's not in favor of opening restrooms or water stations. Ms. Gamage suggested posting something on social media and in the kiosks that surfaces on the trail are not sanitized. People could then make their own decisions to use those surfaces. She doesn't know the right answer for the bike patroller, but hopes he will be safe. Ms. Steele asked if she understood the bike patroller will not going to be out on the weekends, appreciates the guideline put forward and is ready to make a motion to accept them after clarification. She also indicated Orion has lost some of their seasonal workers because of budget cuts and will be doing more of a reactionary versus proactive response to maintenance, and needs to know when the patroller will be out and when Orion needs to get out on their portion of the trail. Mr. Blanchard indicated the Commission needs to decide what to tell the bike patroller. Mr. Butterworth also inspects the trail and lets the member communities know if there are any problems. Ms. Olijnyk asked if the mounted patrol will still be out on the trail. Ms. Ford has not heard that they will not be out, and we have a contract with them – they don't start until after Memorial Day. Ms. Olijnyk thinks if the mounted patrol will still be out, maybe the bike patroller can be out less. Ms. Ford will contact them to see what their plans are for patrol this season. Mr. Ferriolo would like to defer to what would make the bike patroller most comfortable out on the trail, and asked that the motion be amended to have the guidelines in place for one month. Ms. Steele agreed. Mr. Becker said except at crossings, people are pretty

good at social distancing, and feels Mr. Butterworth should do whatever he's comfortable with for the time being. Ms. Ford was directed to post the guidelines on social media and in the kiosks as well as information that surfaces are not sanitized.

**MOTION** by Steele, seconded by Ferriolo, *Moved*, to accept the guidelines as put forward by the Trail Manager for the bike patroller, which follow the Oakland County Health guidelines, until the next meeting, and that the restrooms and water stations be closed.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION: Moutrie Pollinator Garden:** Mr. Blanchard indicated he spoke with Teresa Miller, the landscaper at Wiegand's Nursery, and they are getting the plants in for the garden. The plants are being tagged for this project, and they expect to plant within the next two or three weeks. He has discussions with Mr. Carrio about temporary fencing along where the adjacent dog walking trail is to keep people from going through the garden until it's established. Mr. Carrio pointed out on a diagram where the engraved stone marker will be located near the trail itself. The laser-etched stone is approximately 18" x 18" and weighs about 400 pounds. The stone producer will engrave, deliver and place it in the garden for a cost of \$590, which is in their budget. If the garden is planted first, they will leave a space for the stone. Delivery of the stone should probably be through the adjacent trail, and not the actual trail. Mr. Carrio asked if he should make arrangements for the stone installation or should Ms. Ford do this. Mr. Ferriolo commented about the stone design – he suggested David Moutrie's name be on it's own line, and perhaps as large as the top line. Maybe "remembering" on one line, and then David Moutrie on the next line in the larger font. Mr. Carrio doesn't see this as a problem. Mr. Simon suggested removing the word remembering, and centering the name in a bigger font size. Mr. Carrio said the thought the word remembering is not saying he's deceased, but indicating he is gone from us. Mr. Carrio mentioned that the wording on the stone has been presented to and approved by his widow. As far as installation, Chairperson Blanchard said the Friends Group has taken on a lot of the responsibility, but how does the Commission want to handle this? It's our property, but it's their project. Mr. Carrio feels this should be handled through the Trail office, but is open to whatever is decided. It is the consensus to have staff handle the installation. Ms. Steele thanked the Committee that worked so diligently and the Friends Group – this is a great project.

**MOTION** by Steele, seconded by Stout, *Moved*, to accept the project as presented tonight.

Mr. Ferriolo wants to make sure that the suggestion of having Mr. Moutrie's name in a larger font by itself on a separate line is acceptable to everyone. Ms. Steele agreed to the amendment. Ms. Gray added there will be two benches located within the garden and if a donor pays for the bench it includes a small plaque to honor the person the bench is for. With the garden being for Mr. Moutrie, is the Committee OK with having the memorial benches with other people's names within the garden. Mr. Blanchard is OK with this, but Mr. Becker suggested we check with the Moutrie family to see if they have any objection to other names on the benches. Mr. Blanchard commented the Commission had planned in the budget that the benches would be donated, so if the family doesn't want any other names on them, the Commission would have to purchase the benches. Mr. Becker still would like the input from the family on this issue. Mr. Blanchard said the benches are barriers to keep people from riding bikes through the garden, so they need to be installed as soon as possible. Mr. Ferriolo said we should check with the two families donating the benches and ask them if they want them installed as part of the Moutrie memorial garden. If they say yes, they should be installed; he doesn't think the Moutrie family needs to grant permission. If they say no, that's another story. Mr. Carrio has no opposition to asking the Moutrie family if they have any objection, but is concerned if there is an opposition, how do we justify ignoring this. Chairperson Blanchard has the same concerns. Other entities have contributed towards this project. If the family was paying the whole cost of the project, he

wouldn't have an objection, and doesn't think we should ask. Mr. Becker commented the family has waited seven years for the project completion, and he doesn't want to add another insult to the garden by inviting other memorials in it. He thinks it's appropriate to ask, hopefully they are OK with it. Ms. Gamage asked if the donated benches were approved by the Commission, the family and the Friends Group. Chairperson Blanchard said no – the benches that were in the plan and the budget were assumed they would be donated benches to be put on the trail because there was a backlog of people who wanted to donate benches. There are not a lot of locations for these benches anymore, so the thought was to put them in the garden.

Amended Motion as Voted on:

**MOTION** by Steele, seconded by Ferriolo, *Moved*, to accept the project as presented tonight with the inclusion that Mr. Moutrie's name be on it's own line in a larger font.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Paint Creek Trail Signage Project – Kiosk Text:** Ms. Ford indicated the text for the eight panels that will be going on the new kiosks was included in the packet. There are 10 kiosk signs planned. The text showing the courtesy rules and regulations will be on the trail in three places, the rest will be seen only one time. The Branding Committee has already approved the panels. This project has been stopped right now due to funding from the DNR being halted. Mr. Becker asked if modifications can be made, to which Ms. Ford responded yes. Mr. Becker suggested on the signs including trail courtesy and rules, that something softer start the text, with the regulations below; e.g., welcome to the Paint Creek Trail, we hope you enjoy your stay. The text shouldn't start with a lot of things not to do. He also feels that under native plants, the fifth line down which says "which can pollute our waterways" – is a bit condescending, and would like to end the sentence with they do not need watering and require no fertilizer or pesticides. Messrs. Ferriolo and Blanchard agreed. The signs are beautiful, and the Commission thanked the Branding Committee for all their work. Chairperson Blanchard suggested the Branding Committee help with the signage for the garden. Ms. Gamage suggested we work with Marilyn Trent or someone who has experience with pollinator gardens on signage for the garden. Mr. Blanchard also suggested we work with Rochester Sign Shop on these signs, so they are similar to our new signs. Ms. Steele asked if DNR funding would come back, and if a kiosk would be placed in the Village. Ms. Ford said there will be a kiosk in the Village near the bike fix-it station, and she hasn't heard anything more than the project deadline was extended until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff did receive a reimbursement check for money spent so far.

**MOTION** by Sage, seconded by Steele, *Moved*, to approve the signage project/kiosk text incorporating the two modifications suggested by Mr. Becker.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**UPDATE: Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Funds & Recognition on Trail:** Ms. Ford indicated at the last meeting she was asked to confirm with the different entities about their estimates for the additional projects we wanted to do. She spoke with both Mannik Smith Group and WCI and their responses are included in a memo provided. The quote for the stairs came back considerably higher than the original cost estimate. It's between \$32,000-\$42,000 to get this project done and the costs are broken down, starting with approximately \$5,000 for Mannik Smith Group to do a field survey and design work for the stairs. These stairs will be more expensive than the ones put in at Dinosaur Hill just because they would be longer and the topography would require a landing or curve to accommodate the 11 steps. Then a \$6,500 fee for

inspection, layout and project management. If we need to go out for a formal bid, that is another \$300. For the Dutton and Silver Bell parking lots, she spoke with Tom at WCI - their original estimate was \$37,000. Tom went out to look at the parking lots and thinks we can reduce the cost considerably if we don't replace the bollards and parking blocks. Ms. Ford displayed photos, and said the bollards and blocks are not in bad shape. Not replacing them would save nearly \$17,000. Tom also doesn't think we need to do any slope restoration which was included in the original bid. Tom is estimating this is about a \$20,000 project to complete. That is much less than what was put in the original cost estimate. These two projects balance each other out. Relative to the Dutton parking lot, Ms. Gamage indicated the photo showed the west side of the lot – she was there on the east side of the lot and noticed there were a couple bollards that were out of place. She asked if they were still usable or if they were out of place and just need to be repositioned. Ms. Ford didn't pay attention to that when she was there, she was focusing more on the parking blocks, but she will look at them. Mr. Blanchard asked how much it would be to replace the bollards. Ms. Ford said this information was included in the packet. In the original bid nothing was included about the Dutton parking lot bollards being replaced, it was just the parking blocks. For the Gallagher parking lot, the cost to replace the bollards is \$1,100 each, plus \$120 each to remove them. If some need to be replaced, she thinks Oakland Township may have some extra ones. To replace the parking blocks, the cost is \$120 each. The other issue is how the Wilson Foundation wants to be recognized for their funding of the projects. For the bridge, they just want a sign at the bridge, but for the resurfacing, they would like to have their logo put on the mile markers along the entire length of the trail. Included in the packet is what their logo looks like and an example of how the Michigan Airline Trail incorporated the Wilson logo when they did their mile markers. Our mile markers are different, they are the railroad signs, so they would be asking that the logo be put on the pole portion of the signs. Ms. Steele asked if there was a price for this. Ms. Ford indicated she hasn't priced them out, but that would come out of their funding. She would consider this cost as part of the \$10,000 overage budget. Ms. Gamage asked how many signs would be. Ms. Ford believes it would be at every half mile. Mr. Ferriolo asked how large the logo sign would be – is it the same size as the recycling sign? Ms. Ford indicated the logo could be smaller. It is part of the grant agreement that the Wilson Foundation be recognized, and Ms. Ford indicated in her discussion with them in February, this is how they'd like it to be done. Mr. Blanchard asked if this could be done every mile versus every half mile. Ms. Ford will inquire, possibly they could be put on the signs that don't have the adopt-a-trail signage. Ms. Olijnyk suggested we ask them if it's OK to put the logo on the kiosks, it might give them better visibility. Ms. Ford said this may be a conflict as the DNR is funding the kiosks. Ms. Olijnyk doesn't feel it would be a conflict to put the logo on the map portion. Mr. Blanchard suggested checking with the DNR to see if there is an objection to putting another donor on their signs. Mr. Blanchard is OK with putting the logo on the mile markers, possibly at every mile. He asked how many total signs there are at every half mile. Mr. Ferriolo said maybe 24. He said he wouldn't just do every half mile without making sure the Foundation is aware of it, he doesn't think this is a point of negotiation. Ms. Ford indicated the Foundation asked the logo to be on the mile markers. Mr. Ferriolo said then every mile is fine. Mr. Stout said each sign says mile post, so it's a moot point. Ms. Olijnyk suggested putting the logo on every half mile sign – they did give us a lot of money. Mr. Becker asked Ms. Ford to check with the Foundation about this issue. As far as the budget, Mr. Ferriolo asked if we were to do these projects now, is there enough money to cover it – because of what we agreed to relative to the Oakland Township Parks & Rec Commission's project – the differential between what we are doing with our projects and what's left. Right now, it's showing \$26,503 – he hesitates to say that's the bottom line until we are sure that the projects are covered with the estimates supplied. Ms. Ford said we have Mannik Smith's estimate for the stair work – she's not sure if we will go out for bids or let WCI do the work since they are doing the work on the parking lots. We will have to get a quote back on the stairs, and WCI can't do that until they have seen the plans from Mannik Smith, so there will be a little delay

on that. We have to vote to see if we want to proceed with the contract that Mannik Smith supplied for the design work, or if staff needs to proceed with getting a formal quote on the parking lots with WCI. Mr. Ferriolo reminded the Commission we can't make any final commitment to Oakland Township until this is finalized and we know the differential. Whatever motion is made should not include a fixed amount for Oakland Township. Ms. Steele asked if the signs were included in the over-run, as she doesn't see this in the budget. Ms. Ford said there is \$34,450 budgeted, and she has gotten confirmation from the sign shop they will honor this price. Ms. Steele doesn't remember the stairs being in the original project at all – the stairs were an after-thought. She thinks the trail surface is not great, and would like to think if we received a grant to resurface the trail, that the trail should be in great shape, and it's not. She has a hard time spending money on stairs that weren't in the project whereas the resurfacing needs attention. She would like to look at that before we put in stairs. Mr. Blanchard thought when Ms. Ford had a discussion with the Foundation, the grading did not come up. Ms. Ford confirmed it was not discussed. Mr. Blanchard is not sure they would fund this because they might consider it a maintenance issue – he's not sure we can use their money for resurfacing. Ms. Ford said when she spoke with them in February, the surface was not on her radar at that time as it was early in the season so they did not discuss it. Ms. Steele commented if the grant was to resurface the trail, she thinks we should finish resurfacing the trail before we do anything else. She struggles with leaving the trail in poor condition and putting in stairs that weren't part of the project. She likes the parking lots and the signs, as these were old projects, but thinks the trail should be in better condition before the stairs are built. Mr. Blanchard suggested Ms. Ford talk to the Foundation about possibly funding the resurfacing, because she's discussed the other projects with them. Ms. Ford has discussed the other projects with them, and they have given approval for them. Mr. Becker asked if the trail has been regraded since the last meeting. He indicated Rochester is not good and Rochester Hills is a little better. He's not sure if we should have to pay someone to regrade it all if the municipalities can do it. Ms. Ford stated Orion Township dragged the trail, Oakland Township has graded it. She has commitments from both Rochester and Rochester Hills that they will do it. Mr. Walker walked the Rochester Hills portion of the trail last Saturday and it was in really good condition, but across Dutton there are still footprints and ruts. Ms. Gamage said she was on the trail north of Dutton and it was really rough, even though it's been regraded. The Rochester portion is awful, it doesn't even appear as if it was ever crowned properly. She's nervous that by grading it, we are not fixing the crown issue. She assumed that crowning would have been in the specs originally and would last at least through the first year. She's concerned if it's regraded, we may be kind of negating a warranty. There are sections in Rochester that the trail is concave rather than crowned. Before we continue to explore how much this regrading will cost professionally, we need to have a serious conversation with the contractors. Ms. Gamage's opinion is getting a quote from them to re-do the trail should not be our preliminary goal, our goal should be getting the surface into shape that should have been in before we started having all of these issues. Personally, Mr. Ferriolo doesn't want to go back to the Foundation and tell them we changed our mind about one item and would like to go with the maintenance item instead. We had a discussion with them, we have the four items and the amount of money – if there's any discussion at all it should be what the Commission wants to do with the \$26,000. If the Commission feels the money for regrading is necessary in addition, that would be a question to ask. Otherwise, he feels we made a commitment to the Oakland Township Parks. They are already grading and probably will plan to grade again, and some of the other municipalities are doing the same thing. At last meeting, the Commission concluded there is not good material on the trail – that's why it's in the condition it is. We will have to maintain it much better going forward, probably grading it more often. He doesn't want to change the stairs, the Commission agreed, and the Foundation agreed to give us the money, let that be. We'll have to deal with the grading issue going forward, not because we need to perfect it, but because we will have this problem from now on because of the material. Ms. Ford

addressed Ms. Gamage's comments – Rochester has spoken to her about the edges, and they feel it has a lot to do with the way people use the trail while it's so busy. People are stepping off of it and not walking on the actual surface; that's causing some of the issues. She has spoken to Tom from WCI and put him in contact with Rochester DPW to pinpoint where these locations are so he can take a look and give them information about the best way to handle this going forward. Ms. Ford talked to Rochester DPW today because they are having some drainage issues near their building. They have tried a new solution that is having some success with removing the water. Mr. Blanchard has suggested that Ms. Ford get a quote from WCI about what the regrading cost would be if we need to go that route, as there was a lot of concern by the Commission and from the public about the condition of the trail. We need to be proactive to see what it would cost if the member communities couldn't do it. Mr. Ferriolo will make a motion because the longer we delay these things, the more expensive they will become. This includes the design work and construction of the stairs, the parking lots, signage and the remaining funds going to Oakland Township Parks. Mr. Blanchard asked if anyone wants Ms. Ford to approach the Foundation about the resurfacing cost. – this will be discussed after the motion is voted on.

**MOTION** by Ferriolo, seconded by Steele, *Moved*, to go forward with the proposed four projects and the estimates as presented to accomplish them as soon as possible.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Steele, Walker

Nays: Simon, Stout

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion: Mr. Ferriolo commented what we need to deal with now is that there is an estimated amount of money left in this fund, which could be less than the anticipated \$26,000. The question is what to do with that money. Ms. Steele had suggested that maybe we need to see if the Foundation will allow us to utilize it on maintenance for the trail. The Commission has already said we would give any remaining money left to Oakland Township Parks and Rec. Those are the two things we are dealing with now. The Foundation has already OK'd that the remainder of the money to go to Oakland Township, so we would have to go back and ask them if it could be used for maintenance in lieu of. Mr. Ferriolo's opinion is that the money should go to the Oakland Township Parks & Rec and we deal with the grading another way, even as the municipalities are already in play to start this grading effort. Mr. Becker thinks the extra money should go to the Parks & Rec for the reasons he outlined in the last two meetings. The Parks & Rec has done tremendous things for the Commission for years, and we have the opportunity to help them when they need it. It would be ungracious and ungrateful to turn them down in their hour of need when they want to get this project done that will benefit the Commission. He also hopes we might get a future grant from the Wilson Foundation, as they look favorably on this money going to Oakland Township Parks, and it might help with future funding if we accede to their point of view. Lastly, maintenance is up to each community, and he feels they can handle it well as it will be a long term, on-going concern for this new surface. **Mr. Samuel Nouhan, 5563 KirkrIDGE Trail, Oakland Township** spoke for public comment. He sat in on last month's meeting and addressed the Commission on the trail surface condition. He emphasized on the rut issue – it's a maintenance and repair issue and feels the only meaningful thing the Commission can do, other than a long-term maintenance and repair program, is to either exclude objects from the trail during the spring thaw or educate the users on avoiding any use of the trail that will cause ruts in the spring which become permanent – they don't go away. The waviness and cupping have everything to do with the original surfacing done last fall. He feels the work was defective on parts of the trail, or not done to specifications. He encouraged the Commission not to let the contractor off the hook – he doesn't think the Commission should pay additional money to fix the trail that was probably improperly laid hastily last fall through some bad weather. The cupping issue will only get worse, channeling water into the main part of the trail and cause gullies. It was obvious from the beginning that the material used for the resurfacing was not the same as

what was used previously, but does not feel the ruts or cupping have anything to do with the surface material. He encouraged the Commission to consider an education campaign regarding use of the trail in the spring and would approach the contractor on the problem areas. Mr. Blanchard asked if Rochester Hills regraded their portion. Mr. Walker said their Parks Department was aware of the issue, had the necessary equipment to regrade, the surface is much better than it was, but did not get confirmation on what was done – he will check with the City. Ms. Ford will contact Rochester Hills as she knows they were waiting for staff to be able to grade the surface. If the surface is so much better now, Mr. Blanchard wants to know what kind of equipment was used and how they approached the issue. Maybe they could share their results with the other member communities. Ms. Ford will set up a meeting with the Parks Directors from the municipalities to help with education and/or equipment suggestions that will help alleviate this problem for everyone. Mr. Ferriolo agrees, as we have a real problem and the best way to deal with this is to go to the individual municipalities and get something started. Mr. Simon totally agrees with Mr. Nuhan's comments – the problem is with the way the surface was laid down. We should at least approach the contractor and suggest they come out and ride the trail – it's defective. Ms. Mungioli agreed a meeting should take place with the municipality's Parks Departments. Mr. Blanchard said if Ms. Ford sets up a meeting with WCI, he'll be glad to attend. Mr. Simon commented that WCI also did the work at Addison Oaks, and suggested someone go out and check those conditions. He said WCI stands by their work and should be willing to do something to smooth out the trail. Ms. Steele asked if the remaining funds left after the four projects are completed would be put toward the bathrooms along Orion Road – she'd like to make a motion to that effect. Mr. Blanchard indicated the motion includes that any remaining funds would go to Oakland Township Parks for their project. Ms. Steele apologized, and thought the issue was still on the table.

**UPDATE: Bridge 33.7 Approach Railings – Mannik & Smith Group response to PCTC request:**

Ms. Ford indicated staff received a response from Mannik Smith relative to the Commission's request that they pay for the additional railings at the bridge. They have declined to do so but are going to waive their portion of the construction administration fees; the budget in the packet reflects that change. Mr. Becker asked how much this is. Ms. Ford the cost from Mannik Smith would have been \$2,150, and the cost for the railing to C.A. Hall is \$7,351.04. Ms. Ford said this is an informational item, so a motion is not necessary. Mr. Simon stated he would like to see that Mannik Smith Group is never offered another job for any of our member communities. If this needs to be a motion, he will do so. They were horrible on every aspect, and now they're turning the Commission down for something they forgot to do on the wings. Mr. Stout commented that after the Commission spent several hundred thousand dollars on trail resurfacing and the comments from users are not good, he thinks our relationship with our current engineering firm should be over. He explained that's why he voted no earlier – he can't in good conscience give Mannik Smith another cent to design stairs or parking lots or anything else. Mr. Ferriolo agrees with the sentiment, and thinks everyone else feels the same way. But at the same time, he thinks if we go out for bids, we will pay more for these projects. That why he said let's get it done as fast as possible because he fears it will cost us more if we wait. Mr. Blanchard agreed.

**DISCUSSION: Trail Surface Condition & Maintenance:** This item has already been discussed.

**DISCUSSION: 2020 Trail Events:** Ms. Ford indicated the events coming up are included in the packet. She has been unable to reach RARA in regard to their June 27<sup>th</sup> event, so she's not sure if they are working at this point. Ms. Mungioli, who sits on their board, said they are closed and have minimal staff, but offered to reach out to them for confirmation of the event. She

doesn't think they will have anything up and running until after the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Mr. Blanchard's recommendation is to postpone the event. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Ford said the Run Michigan Cheap event is still scheduled as of today. The Motor City Cruisin' for the Trails, originally scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> has been pushed back to August 30<sup>th</sup>. The last event is the Labor Day Bridge Walk for September 7<sup>th</sup>. Staff put in their application to reserve the pavilion, but the city of Rochester could not accept it because they are not scheduling anything right now. Mr. Ferriolo indicated the Mackinac Bridge Walk has been cancelled. He said this event is not a social distancing kind of event, so if we still need to practice distancing and are concerned about a reoccurrence of the virus, he doesn't know if it's in the best interest to hold this event this year. The planning for the event starts in early July, so we have some time to make a decision. He is happy to work on the event if the Commission wants to go forward with it. Mr. Becker said we need to start thinking about this event at our next meeting and make a decision whether to hold it or not. Mr. Blanchard said there are other events scheduled for June, July and August, and wonders if we should contact them about postponing their events. Mr. Becker said he would recommend they cancel these events, but it is their decision. Mr. Blanchard said we manage the trail, and if events are allowed that don't follow the social distancing guidelines, are we being negligent? Mr. Carrio said he's in touch with the Motor City Brew Tour and Cruisin' for the Trails events coordinator, and he is monitoring very closely the feasibility of conducting the event, and said he will make a decision no later than July based on the current environment at that time. He has collected the money, registered the participants, and is committed to giving a full refund in the event of cancellation. As far as the Bridge Walk, Ms. Gray said Mr. Ferriolo has been very generous in soliciting sponsorships in the previous years, but the local businesses are hurting right now, so she's not sure they would be able to help out this year. She feels the planning for this event could start in June, which would give enough time to work on it if the event will be held. Ms. Mungioli will find out about the June 27<sup>th</sup> event, and staff will contact the coordinator for the July 12<sup>th</sup> event. Ms. Ford indicated the DNR is suspending the requirement to have a ribbon cutting for the bridge; we can do a press release or a social media posting in lieu of the ribbon cutting. It's up to the Commission if they want to cancel or postpone the ribbon cutting, or do one of the other options. Ms. Olijnyk suggested waiting until next month to see if the LDBW will be held, maybe we could hold it at the bridge walk and do a ribbon cutting.

**DISCUSSION: June PCTC Meeting – via Teleconference or In-person ?** Mr. Blanchard said at this point, the Governor's orders go through the end of May. Mr. Ferriolo said this has been extended until June 30<sup>th</sup>. A comment was made that meetings have been cancelled until the end of June, not the stay at home order. It is recommended the June meeting be done virtually. **MOTION** by Gamage, seconded by Stout, *Moved*, that the Commission conducts the June meeting virtually.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** In addition to the written report, Ms. Ford indicated the social distancing signs have been placed on the trail. Oakland Township asked the Commission to rope off the bike racks at the Cider Mill because people were congregating there. They are working on developing their COVID preparedness and response plan in collaboration with all the tenants in the Cider Mill for when they resume in-person work. She has received news that the Master Plan has been accepted through 2024, so she can apply for grants. Regarding the Senior Signs, she found out they pulled the signs from the trail. They had asked for an extension because of how long it was taking to produce the signs, but as they had some vandalism issues and 11 signs were stolen, the signs are now in front of the Lake Orion Village Hall. She displayed some photos she received from the event organizer.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Mr. Walker asked Ms. Ford to follow up with Rochester Hills to see if they graded their trail portion. Ms. Gamage noticed rodent holes on the trail. She also mentioned the Adopt A Trail book group did a very small section of the cleanup a few weeks ago, and were thanked by many people. Social distancing was nearly impossible because it was a nice afternoon and so many people were out on the trail. She thanked the staff for the social distancing signs. Mr. Stout indicated the Clarkston pathway connector bridge to the trail is still on schedule, and should be done by the end of the construction season. He encouraged everyone to support local businesses as they are really hurting. Orion Township laid off 10 people, and seasonal staff is nil, so they will do the best they can to take care of any problems. Mr. Simon was previously asked to get a price on people counters – if you want to count both ways, it’s around \$4,000, to count in one direction, it’s around \$3,000. He asked if anyone flies drones, as he’s got a small project coming up to fly over the parks to make a video for their website. He will give credit to anyone submitting a video. Mr. Ferriolo has one coming on Friday and offered to help. Ms. Buxar indicated Oakland Township has a drone. Mr. Blanchard said Rochester Hills Parks Department is willing to water the pollinator garden. Everyone thanked the staff for all their work in providing a safe place for people to get out. Have a safe Memorial Day Holiday.

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:**

**MOTION** by Gamage, seconded by Simon, *Moved*, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:25 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Blanchard, Ferriolo, Gamage, Sage, Simon, Steele, Stout, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. – Virtually**

Respectfully submitted,

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MELISSA FORD, Trail Manager

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DAVID BECKER, Secretary