

PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

DRAFT

August 20, 2024



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Paintcreektrail.org

**REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION
City of Rochester Municipal Offices
400 Sixth Street, Rochester, MI 48307**

The August 20, 2024, meeting of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the main conference room of the City of Rochester Municipal Offices.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Voting Members:

David Walker (RH), Vice-Chairperson (Acting Chairperson)
Robin Buxar (Oakland)
Ken Elwert (RH)
Linda Gamage (R)
Conner Reiter (Orion)

Voting Alternates:

None

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT.

Non-Voting Alternates: Carol Morlan (RH)

Village Non-Voting Alternate: Stanley Ford (Village of Lake Orion)

Staff: Tom Correll, Trail Manager
Nicole Sands, Administrative Assistant

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail:

Louis Carrio, President; Matt Reimann, Treasurer

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ABSENT

Voting Members: Brian Blust (Oakland), Julia Dalrymple (Orion), Steve Sage (R)

Alternates: Russell George (RH), David Becker (R), Sara King (R), Dave Mabry (Oakland), Martha Olijnyk (Oakland), Matt Pfeiffer (Orion), Aaron Whatley (Orion)

Village Non-Voting Member: Jason Peltier (Village of Lake Orion)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chairperson Walker led the Commissioners, staff and those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY BUXAR, SECONDED BY GAMAGE, to approve this evening's agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail President Louis Carrio introduced the group's newly elected treasurer, Matt Reimann. Mr. Reimann and his wife are very active with the Friends group, and often tend the Moutrie Pollinator Garden.

CONSENT AGENDA

This evening's Consent Agenda consists of the following: (a) minutes of the July 16, 2024, regular meeting and (b) Treasurer's Report for July 2024.

MOVED BY BUXAR, SECONDED BY ELWERT, to approve and file the minutes of the July 16, 2024, regular meeting with the following correction: on page 75 under "Commissioner Elwert's Reports – Dutton Road Crossing – Parking Lot," the fourth line should be corrected to read, "...that we install parking ~~bollards~~ blocks to give drivers..." The Commission also hereby moves to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for July 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Trail Manager Correll and the Commissioners reviewed the list of invoices dated August 20, 2024.

MOVED BY ELWERT, SECONDED BY GAMAGE, to approve payment of the invoices as presented.

AYES: Buxar, Elwert, Gamage, Reiter, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Sage, Blust, Dalrymple

MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Gamage asked that the Oakland County Sheriff's Department provide a report of the dates and times that they patrol as well as any details on any incidents or items of interest that they observe. She would like to receive a report monthly or, at a minimum, at the end of the mounted patrol season. Manager Correll will look into this.

APPLICATION FOR LIMITED USE PERMIT FOR PRIVATE ACCESS TO PAINT CREEK TRAIL: 1850 N. Livernois

Staff noticed a new stone path and culvert being installed on Trailways Commission property near the property owned by Thomas and Caryn Maxwell. Manager Correll sent the property owners notice of the encroachment, photos of the encroachment, a copy of the encroachment policy, and a copy of the encroachment removal procedures. While the letter requests that the property owners remove the encroachment, the property owners were told that the property owners could submit an Application for Limited Use Permit for Private Access to the Paint Creek Trail.

Thomas and Caryn Maxwell submitted an application for the Commission's consideration. However, the applicants were not present this evening.

The Commissioners discussed that this linear park has an approximately 50 foot buffer on either side of the trail surfacing. Further, the Commission seeks to maintain the natural look and feel of the trail; if every residence had a private access, it would be contrary to this vision.

The Licensing Committee met to review the Maxwells' application. They unanimously recommend that the Trailways Commission deny the request, and that the property owners be directed to remove the encroachment completely within 30 days.

MOVED BY GAMAGE, SECONDED BY ELWERT, to deny the Application for Limited Use Permit for Private Access to the Paint Creek Trail submitted by Thomas and Caryn Maxwell and to direct that they remove the encroachment and restore the area to its original state within 30 days.

MOTION CARRIED.

Manager Correll will notify the applicants of the Commission's decision.

The Commissioners discussed temporary use permits and individual properties with access to the Paint Creek Trail. As a temporary use permit only allows this use for one year, the Commissioners discussed that all of those property owners should be contacted. Commissioner Elwert suggested that the letter that we send to property owners when there is an encroachment should also indicate that, while the property owner may request a temporary use permit, very few of these requests are approved. After further discussion, the Commission agreed that the Licensing Committee shall review this matter and make a recommendation to the Trailways Commission.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Manager Correll reviewed the updated timeline.

Community Opinion Survey

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed survey questions, which were updated as discussed at the July meeting. They had no further revisions.

They viewed the flyer created by consultant Giffels-Webster that asks, "Love This Trail?" and contains a QR code to access the survey. The Commissioners loved the flyer and the inclusion of the QR code, but felt that this should be rephrased to be a call to action, and suggested that it instead say something like, "Take This Survey."

For the 2019 Master Plan update, the survey was made available for a one-month period. The Commissioners agreed that the survey should go live just before Labor Day weekend, and it should close on October 6th. Staff will promote the survey through the local newspaper, on our Facebook page, through postings along the trail, etc.

Open House With Stakeholders

Giffels-Webster will conduct an open house with stakeholders. The Commission agreed to change the date from October 9th to October 10th.

Additional Survey for Stakeholders Who Do Not Attend Stakeholder Meeting

If a stakeholder is not able to attend the open house with stakeholders, Giffels-Webster is offering, at no additional cost, a survey that will allow stakeholders to pinpoint sites along the Paint Creek Trail and provide comments. Giffels-Webster has also offered that this survey could be available to the public if the Commission wishes.

The Commissioners agreed that this would be fine, but they want the stakeholder and public responses kept separate from the community opinion survey responses. If this is too complicated to accomplish, then Manager Correll said we will forego this additional survey.

Master Plan Review Subcommittees

Commissioner Elwert referenced the list of those commissioners working on the various subcommittees and said his name should be removed from the Planning and Public Input Subcommittee. (He is already serving on the Administrative Structure Review and Recreation Inventory Review subcommittees.)

LABOR DAY BRIDGE WALK 2024

The 17th annual Labor Day Bridge Walk is scheduled to take place on Monday, September 2nd. Trail Manager Correll and the Commissioners reviewed the sponsorships received to date. In-kind donations include cases of water from Trader Joe's, and coffee for 75 people from Tim Horton's.

Vice-Chairperson Walker noted that the Treasurer's Report shows a donation of \$500 from Commissioner Stanley Ford. Mr. Ford was present and explained that this was originally donated to support the 40th anniversary celebration, but may be used where it is needed. The Commissioners thanked him.

With respect to volunteers for the bridge walk, Administrative Assistant Sands contacted the local high school as well as volunteer groups; we have six volunteers at this time. Members of the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail will also volunteer. Frank Ferriolo has again offered to be the photographer for the event.

Friends President Louis Carrio shared that the Friends group is working with the same company that produces spirit wear for the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm. Anyone interested may order a T-shirt (\$15) or long sleeve hoodie (\$25) online through the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail Facebook page. He has purchased a limited number of T-shirts that will be available for purchase prior to or at the Labor Day Bridge Walk event.

Mr. Carrio continued that the Friends will have a display table at the Rochester farmers' market on August 31st from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will be sharing information regarding trail safety and trail etiquette, and will also promote the Labor Day Bridge Walk. Manager Correll

will be at the display table with the Friends volunteers. The Commissioners agreed that this will be a good opportunity to invite people to participate in the community opinion survey.

SOLARONICS PROPERTY UPDATE

Trail Manager Correll reported that he worked with the Licensing Committee and the Trailways Commission's attorney to develop the letter dated July 29th that was sent to Solaronics by certified mail. He has not received any response from Solaronics, although Champion Development has indicated that they will be handling the removal of the fence and any other improvements, as well as the removal of any hazardous materials that were released onto the property.

After discussion, the Trailways Commissioners agreed that Manager Correll should contact the Trailways attorney to obtain direction regarding how to proceed in the event that we do not receive a response from Solaronics shortly.

MEMORIAL PAVERS

Administrative Assistant Sands reviewed her memorandum of August 14th. There are four potential areas along the Paint Creek Trail that could be designated for memorial or commemorative pavers, one location in each member community.

The Rochester Rotary Club has memorial pavers at the Gateway Park in Rochester. Ms. Sands spoke with Rotarian Billy Ebinger, who shared information regarding cost and installation. Most of the costs associated with memorial pavers would be incurred when the paver area is first constructed and blank compact bricks are set down. People can then purchase clay bricks for engraving (the clay bricks are legible for a longer time than the compact bricks and are preferable for engraving). The Rochester Rotary Club purchases 4"x8" clay bricks from Haley Stone at a cost of \$50/brick and the engraving fees start at \$30/brick depending on the size of the brick and amount of engraving. The Rotary Club sells the 4"x8" memorial bricks for \$100 for two lines of writing and \$150 for three lines of writing.

Administrative Assistant Sands said she has also contacted a business in Dryden, the Brick Paver Dr, that works with organizations to design and install brick pavers for fundraising. She will share more information as it becomes available.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Sands for looking into this. They then discussed the idea of offering memorial brick pavers. Commissioner Elwert cautioned that if the brick paver area is not installed correctly, this can become costly over time as the bricks will move and the site will have to be redone. In response to a question, Commissioner Elwert explained that people would order bricks, we would have them engraved, and then periodically we would have the blank compact bricks removed and the engraved memorial bricks installed in their place.

The Commissioners acknowledged that, while we still need to look into this further, this would be a way to accommodate the many requests we receive from people who wish to honor a loved one. Trail Manager Correll recalled that the Commission was approached earlier this year with a request to install some sort of memorial along the Trail and we did not have an option to offer at that time.

Ms. Sands can look to other communities to learn what policies they have in place. The Commissioners discussed that a policy would need to address, among other topics, what to do if a brick were damaged or if the engraving became illegible. There would also need to be a policy regarding what could be engraved on the pavers.

Commissioner Ford said he likes this idea. Commissioner Morlan agreed, and suggested that we may want to coordinate installation of the engraved bricks with an event such as the Labor Day Bridge Walk.

MANAGER'S REPORTS

Manager Correll reviewed his memorandum of August 14th.

Complaints, Vandalism, Feedback

Sticker Graffiti. There was a report of stickers from a local skate shop showing up on Trail amenities near Rochester. Manager Correll contacted the owner of the skate shop to ask for his assistance in this regard.

Unclean Portable Restroom. Staff received a report that the portable restroom at the Tienken Road trailhead needed to be cleaned.

Repairs and Maintenance

Drinking Fountain by Flagstar Bank. The drinking fountain was reopened, but a trail user complained of feeling ill after drinking from it. Manager Correll contacted Flagstar Bank to inform them of this, and coordinated with Oakland Township to shut down the drinking fountain until the issue is resolved.

The trail user indicated that they had the water independently tested. The Commissioners agreed that we should also have the water tested.

Follow Up/Ongoing Projects

Labor Day Bridge Walk. We have received a number of sponsorships but welcome more.

Registration for this event opened on August 1st. At this time, there are 20 participants who have preregistered for the event. Commissioners recalled that last year we similarly had a

small number of participants who pre-registered, but that there was a great turnout for the event.

Bridge 31.7 Project. The design plans have been updated and the bid package is almost assembled.

License Agreements. Manager Correll is working with our attorney to update physical location attachments through the Register of Deeds. The final license agreements should be ready to approve and send out in September.

Detroit Institute of Arts – “Inside/Out” Program. Manager Correll submitted an application to participate in the Detroit Institute of Arts’ “Inside/Out” program. This program provides high-quality reproductions of works from the DIA to communities to display in an outdoor setting. Typically, these reproductions are grouped within walking or bicycling distance of each other. The Commissioners felt this program is a great match for the Paint Creek Trailway.

Bald Mountain Connector. Commissioner Gamage asked about the status of this project. Manager Correll reported that Bald Mountain is putting together a proposed agreement for the Trailways Commission’s consideration.

Medical Emergencies, Police, Fire Calls on Trail

Manager Correll was not aware of any emergencies on the trail.

COMMISSIONER GAMAGE’S REPORT

Master Plan Update

Commissioner Gamage thanked the staff for the great work they have been doing on many projects including the Master Plan update. She suggested that it might be of interest to ask the Rochester Hills Public Library and/or the Friends of the Library to promote survey participation.

COMMISSIONER WALKER’S REPORT

Encroachment: 4763 Forest Ridge Court.

Commissioner Walker inquired about the status of this matter. Manager Correll reported that our attorney has sent the homeowner a letter.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY GAMAGE, SECONDED BY ELWERT, there being no further business before the Commission, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid R. Kliffel
Recording Secretary

Approved,

Julia Dalrymple
Secretary

Approved,

Tom Correll
Trail Manager