

PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

\*\*\*APPROVED\*\*\*

July 16, 2024

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4393 Collins Road  
Rochester, MI 48306  
(248) 651-9260  
Paintcreektrail.org

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

The July 16, 2024, meeting of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the main conference room of the City of Rochester Municipal Offices.

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT**

Voting Members:

Steve Sage (R), Chairperson  
David Walker (RH), Vice-Chairperson  
Brian Blust (Oakland), Treasurer  
Julia Dalrymple (Orion), Secretary  
Ken Elwert (RH)  
Linda Gamage (R)  
Conner Reiter (Orion)

Voting Alternates:

None

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT.

Non-Voting Alternates:

David Becker (R)

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; Michael Jahn, Vice-President

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**ABSENT**

Voting Members: Robin Buxar (Oakland)

Alternates: Russell George (RH), Carol Morlan (RH), 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**

Chairperson Sage 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 WALKER, SECONDED BY GAMAGE, to approve this evening's agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one present who wished to comment on an item not on this evening's agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

This evening's Consent Agenda consists of the following: (a) minutes of the June 18, 2024, regular meeting and (b) Treasurer's Report for June 2024.

MOVED BY WALKER, SECONDED BY REITER, to approve and file the minutes of the June 18, 2024, regular meeting with the following corrections: on page 64 under "Labor Day Bridge Walk 2024," the second paragraph, fifth line, should be revised to read, "...has been the presenting sponsor since the inception of presenting sponsor designation was created for this event..." On page 67 under "Commissioner Elwert's Report – New Rochester Hills Park Ranger," it should be corrected to reflect that the new Park Ranger's name is Kaleb Grant. The Commission also hereby moves to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for June 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

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**APPROVAL OF INVOICES**

Trail Manager Correll and the Commissioners reviewed the list of invoices dated July 16, 2024.

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

AYES: Blust, Dalrymple, Elwert, Gamage, Reiter, Sage, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Buxar

MOTION CARRIED.

**PAINT CREEK CHARITY 5K**

Students from Rochester Adams High School had asked that they be able to make a presentation to the Commission and request approval for a proposed 5K run, the "Paint Creek Charity 5K." However, no one was present this evening on their behalf.

Thereupon, the Commission agreed to table this matter.

**MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Trail Manager Correll reported that he is continuing to work with Giffels Webster on the Master Plan update. He and the Commissioners reviewed the revised timeline.

Subcommittees will work on different aspects of the Master Plan in detail, then bring their recommendations to the Commission for consideration. Commissioners volunteered to work on the following subcommittees:

Administrative Structure Review (Commissioners Elwert and Sage) – Commission to review at the August 20, 2024, meeting.

Recreation Inventory Review (Commissioners Elwert and Reiter) – Commission to review at the September 17, 2024, meeting.

Planning and Public Input Process (Commissioners Dalrymple, Elwert and Gamage) – Commission to review at the October 15, 2024, meeting.

Action Program – Goals and Objectives, and Capital Improvement Schedule (Commissioners Becker and Sage) – Commission to review at the November 19, 2024 (Goals and Objectives), and January 21, 2025 (Action Program) meetings.

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The Commissioners and Trail Manager Correll next reviewed the proposed survey questions.

Question 5 – Commissioner Gamage suggested that e-bicycles should be added to this list (in addition to bicycles).

Question 7 – The Commissioners discussed this question. Commissioner Gamage recalled that at one time the costs for the bicycle patrol and for the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department mounted patrol were different (now they are the same). Commissioner Dalrymple added that these two types of patrols provide different types of services, and she wondered if we should include an explanation within this question. After further discussion, the Commissioner agreed to eliminate this question.

Question 8 – This is another question that asks what Trail users might want to see done if funding were available. Commissioner Gamage questions like this help the Commission identify strategic goals. Commissioner Blust noted that having a Master Plan is helpful to support grant applications, and he wondered if there are certain questions that we need to make sure to include for this purpose. After further discussion, they agreed to delete this question and instead add this information under question 19.

Question 9 – E-bicycles should be added to this list (in addition to speeding bicycles).

Question 12 – The Commissioners discussed allowing respondents to explain their response if they give a rating of fair to poor.

Question 13 – Commissioner Gamage suggested that we should instead add the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail to the list contained in question 24. Friends President Louis Carrio agreed to remove question 13. He suggested that we may want to include links or QR codes to direct people to online resources where they can learn more about groups such as the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail.

Question 16 – Commissioner Elwert felt this question is too complicated. While the Commissioners acknowledged that it would be useful to know how frequently people use the Trail in the different seasons, they agreed to simplify the question by removing reference to the seasons.

Question 19 – The Commissioners liked giving respondents the opportunity to comment on specific sections of the Trail.

Question 20 – Commissioner Gamage noted that this question asks about the possibility of installing asphalt surfacing. As there are no plans to do this, the Commissioners agreed to delete this part of the questions.

Question 23 – The Commissioners agreed to delete this question.

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Question 24 – (See also comments under Question 13.) The Commissioners discussed removing this question and instead providing links for references (websites, Facebook pages, etc.).

Question 25 – The Commissioners agreed to delete this question as they would like the survey to be anonymous.

Additional space for comments at end of survey – Commissioner Becker suggested that we include a place for people to provide any additional comments.

Manager Correll will revise the questions as discussed this evening and the Commission will consider approval at the next meeting.

**LABOR DAY BRIDGE WALK 2024**

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Labor Day Bridge Walk will take place on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Spalding DeDecker will be the presenting sponsor, and the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail will be a supporting sponsor.

Trader Joe's, another sponsor, will be at the event. They will provide and distribute water, bananas and granola.

Manager Correll has updated the sponsor form and encouraged Commissioners to approach potential sponsors for this event. Initial flyers have been created and will be updated with sponsor names as we receive them.

The location has been reserved and the event applications have been submitted.

Online registration for this event will open on August 1<sup>st</sup>. On the day of the event, registration will open at 8 a.m., and the race will start at 9 a.m.

**SOLARONICS PROPERTY UPDATE**

Trail Manager Correll reported that the Rochester City Council approved the re-zoning of the property at their June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. This will allow the sale of the property from Solaronics to Champion Development Group to move forward.

The Trailways Commission's attorney has advised that we need to be in clear communication with Champion Development. A representative of the buyer has indicated that they hope to close on this sale between July 10<sup>th</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup>. Pursuant to the license agreement, Champion/Solaronics will have 90 days to complete the required work. The Commissioners discussed working with our attorney and the parties to come to a firm understanding as to when the 90 day period starts. Manager Correll will continue to communicate and check in with Champion, and will also coordinate with our attorney.

### **LICENSE AGREEMENTS**

Manager Correll received the revised license agreements yesterday and hopes to schedule a meeting with the Licensing Subcommittee next week.

### **AUDITOR**

The auditor whom we have been using is retiring, so the Commission will need to select a new auditor. Trail Manager Correll prepared a draft Request for Proposal for the Commissioners to review. The Commission will consider the RFP at the August meeting, and Manager Correll plans to post the RFP in September.

### **MANAGER'S REPORTS**

Manager Correll reviewed his memorandum of July 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Complaints, Vandalism, Feedback**

Adams Road Crossing. A concerned citizen is suggesting that we install safety traffic islands, similar to those found at many crossings for the Clinton River Trail.

Human Waste on Trail. Once again there are reports of human waste along the Trail. Manager Correll has been notifying the Oakland County Sheriff's Department about this. The Commissioners agreed that Manager Correll should purchase a trail camera.

Sticker Graffiti. There is more sticker graffiti near the Rochester/Rochester Hills portions of the Trail.

#### **Repairs and Maintenance**

Tree Down Near Silver Bell Road Crossing. A tree came down in a recent storm, blocking a portion of the Trail. Oakland Township's maintenance staff quickly removed it.

Drinking Fountain by Flagstar Bank. The drinking fountain has been out of service for several days for maintenance coordinated by Flagstar Bank. They will update Trailways staff when the work is complete.

#### **Follow Up/Ongoing Projects**

Labor Day Bridge Walk. We have received some sponsors but are looking for more. Registration for the event opens on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mounted Patrol. Staff has received positive comment regarding mounted patrol on the Trail.

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Atwater Commons – Citizen Landscaping. A citizen would like to do some landscaping, including native plantings, between the paved trail and the curb along Atwater Commons. The citizen will create a detailed plan, coordinate this with Atwater Commons, and share the plan with the Trailways Commission. Manager Correll will keep the Commission updated on this matter.

### **Medical Emergencies, Police, Fire Calls on Trail**

There was a bicycle accident on the Trail in Oakland Township on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Oakland Township Fire Department responded. Apparently, a cyclist went off the Trail and down an embankment south of the Adams Road crossing. Our bicycle patroller met with the first responders, who confirmed that the cyclist was in good condition but was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

### **2024 Priorities**

Southeast Rochester Property Development. Trail Manager Correll reported that the grantor has indicated that this project is taking longer than they had anticipated. We continue to work on this project, which involves an EGLE permit.

## **COMMISSIONER WALKER'S REPORTS**

### **Encroachment: 4763 Forest Ridge Court.**

Commissioner Walker inquired about the status of this matter. Manager Correll sent the homeowner a letter of denial in response to her request for a limited use permit, but with the opportunity to appeal with new information. He has not received a response. The encroachment still exists. The Commissioner agreed that Manager Correll should contact our attorney.

### **Dutton Road Crossing – Parking Lot**

People have been parking haphazardly in this area. Trail Manager Correll acknowledged this. When the Road Commission for Oakland County recently worked in this area, he thought they were going to widen and reshape the parking area, but that did not occur. Commissioner Elwert suggested that we install parking bollards ~~blocks~~ to give drivers a suggestion of where they should be parking.

## **COMMISSIONER GAMAGE'S REPORT**

### **Labor Day Bridge Walk**

Oakland Township resident Frank Ferriolo has offered to take photographs at this event.

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**COMMISSIONER SAGE'S REPORT**

Commissioner Sage said he will be unable to attend the August meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY WALKER, SECONDED BY DALRYMPLE, there being no further business before the Commission, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid R. Kliffel  
Recording Secretary

Approved,

Julia Dalrymple  
Secretary

Approved,

Tom Correll  
Trail Manager