

PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

APPROVED

September 17, 2024



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 September 17, 2024, meeting of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission was called to order at 7:02 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)
Brian Blust (Oakland)
Linda Gamage (R)
Conner Reiter (Orion)

Voting Alternates:

Dave Mabry (Oakland)

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT.

Non-Voting Alternates: None

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

Staff: Tom Correll, Trail Manager

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ABSENT

Voting Members: Robin Buxar (Oakland), Julia Dalrymple (Orion), Steve Sage (R), Ken Elwert (RH)

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

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 MABRY, SECONDED BY BLUST, 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 August 20, 2024, regular meeting and (b) Treasurer's Report for August 2024.

MOVED BY MABRY, SECONDED BY REITER, to approve and file the minutes of the August 20, 2024, regular meeting as presented, and to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for August 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Trail Manager Correll and the Commissioners reviewed the list of invoices dated September 17, 2024.

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

AYES: Blust, Gamage, Mabry, Reiter, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dalrymple, Elwert, Sage

MOTION CARRIED.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Community Opinion Survey

Manager Correll shared the updated flyer/poster, which reads, “Love This Trail!” and directs viewers to “Take our survey and help us improve it!” with a QR code to access the survey. The survey will be advertised in a number of places, including through social media. The survey opened on September 2nd and will remain open until October 14th.

Open House With Stakeholders

The open house with stakeholders is now tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 17th.

Additional Survey for Stakeholders Who Do Not Attend Stakeholder Meeting

If a stakeholder is not able to attend the open house on October 17th, Giffels-Webster will offer, at no additional cost, a survey that will allow stakeholders and possibly the general public to pinpoint sites along the Paint Creek Trail and provide comments.

LABOR DAY BRIDGE WALK 2024

The 17th annual Labor Day Bridge Walk took place on Monday, September 2nd. The weather was great and the event was a huge success. There were approximately 175 attendees, and we had the help of approximately a dozen volunteers.

Trail Manager Correll thanked Commissioners Walker and Elwert for soliciting a number of sponsors and donors. Spalding DeDecker was the presenting sponsor, and they contributed above and beyond what we had requested. Many others, including Commissioner Ford, made generous donations, both monetary and of supplies.

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He continued that costs were less this year, in part because of donations. Manager Correll reviewed revenues and expenses for the event. This year, we netted \$2,492.96, which is up from \$1,984.67 in 2023.

The commissioners thanked Manager Correll and Administrative Assistant Sands for doing such a nice job to make the walk a success.

Manager Correll recalled that last year we earmarked the revenue from this event for a specific project. He asked if the commissioners wished to do the same thing this year. Vice-Chairperson Walker would like to put some of this money towards the initial costs for the memorial brick paver installations. Manager Correll noted that we should be receiving a quote for this work within the next few days. Commissioner Gamage was not opposed to this, but cautioned against restricting the monies for a specific project.

SOLARONICS PROPERTY UPDATE

The commissioners reviewed the September 9th letter from Solaronics.

In their letter, Solaronics asked for direction regarding restoration plantings for the area that was subject to the license agreement. Commissioner Reiter commented that if the area is left unplanted, invasive plants will likely take over. He offered to meet with Trail Manager Correll to review the existing vegetation in this area and provide a recommendation for a seed mix and cover crop that will establish quickly. Further, he pointed out that the area should be seeded in the fall. This will allow the seeds to cold stratify over the winter, which will allow them to germinate and start growing in the spring.

Commissioner Gamage referred to Solaronics' statement regarding making sure that the quality of the soil in this area is "at an acceptable standard for trail use." She questioned whether this was the language stated in the license agreement.

The commissioners discussed the timing of the fence removal, the gravel removal, and the remediation work. Trail Manager Correll said that he continues to be in contact with Champion Development and will ask them to keep him apprised of developments.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL

The Paint Creek Trail Adopt-a-Trail program allows community and civic organizations, private businesses and individuals to adopt a segment of the Paint Creek Trail. If approved, volunteers are responsible for picking up litter and recyclables along their designated section of the trail two times a year for a period of two years. The upcoming term runs for calendar years 2025 and 2026. The Paint Creek Trail is divided into seven sections for this purpose.

Volunteer groups must pay a \$50 fee for an Adopt-a-Trail sign. Commissioner Gamage noted that often groups will renew their support. In this case, the Commissioners concurred that we can continue to use the existing sign and do not need to charge an additional fee.

Manager Correll will contact the existing organizations and ask if they are interested in renewing their support to adopt a section of the trail. Commissioner Gamage offered that the volunteer group that she works with is always asking if there are other things they can do to help.

MANAGER'S REPORTS

Manager Correll reviewed his memorandum of September 12th.

Complaints, Vandalism, Feedback

Horse Manure on Trail. A trail user complained of horse manure on the trail and suggested that the Commission consider banning horses on the trail.

Elevation Markers. A trail user suggested adding elevation markers at trailheads.

Driveway Easement. There is an easement for trail users to cross the Tendercare Assisted Living driveway in Oakland Township. Trail users asked why they must yield at this intersection and not the other way around. Manager Correll explained that there is an easement across the private property that allows trail users to cross. This is why there are signs on the Paint Creek Trail property requiring trail users to yield to vehicles using the driveway.

Repairs and Maintenance

Fallen Tree. A large tree fell on the trail between Adams Road and Gunn Road in Oakland Township. The tree has been removed.

Follow Up/Ongoing Projects

Website Redesign. In October, the commission will consider two design templates for the new website.

License Agreements. Manager Correll continues to work 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 soon.

Medical Emergencies, Police, Fire Calls on Trail

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

COMMISSIONER BLUSTS'S REPORT

Goodison Good Tyme

Goodison Good Tyme was held this past Saturday, September 15th, at Bear Creek Nature Park, hosted by the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission. Attendees enjoyed this free family-oriented event.

COMMISSIONER GAMAGE'S REPORTS

Adopt-A-Trail

Commissioner Gamage stated that the group she is involved with for this project will do their clean-up along the Paint Creek Trail on Saturday, October 12th.

All-Abilities Park

The City of Rochester recently completed an all-abilities park, located near the Paint Creek Trail. As a part of this project, they resurfaced an area on either side of the trail. However, they did not use the same surfacing material as we use on the trail, and people are finding the new material difficult to navigate. Manager Correll will ask them to match the trail surfacing material.

Dillman and Upton – Trees

Commissioner Gamage recalled that a number of years ago there was discussion about planting trees along the edge of the Dillman and Upton parking lot, which abuts the Paint Creek Trail. The trees that had been there and that provided some screening were removed in conjunction with the Ludlow reconstruction project. Dillman and Upton recently planted trees without consulting with the Trailways Commission of the City of Rochester. Marilyn Trent, who is a City of Rochester council member, is a member of the City Beautiful Commission, and is also a member of the Rochester Pollinator group, had suggested other tree species. There are monies available in the City of Rochester budget for this purpose.

Trail Manager Correll will contact the City of Rochester's forestry person, Nick Banda, in this regard. Commissioner Reiter offered to meet onsite with Manager Correll and Mr. Banda to assess the area. Commissioner Gamage suggested that we may want to have a variety of plantings so that this does not look like a "wall." She also encouraged Manager Correll to contact Ms. Trent for her input in this regard.

COMMISSIONER WALKER'S REPORTS

Drinking Fountain

Commissioner Walker recalled that there had been concerns about the drinking fountain at the Flagstar Bank property in Oakland Township. Manager Correll said he will follow up with Maintenance Foreman Caruso to obtain a status report.

License Agreements

Commissioner Walker inquired about the status of this matter. Manager Correll reiterated that he continues to work with our attorney to update the license agreements.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY GAMAGE, SECONDED BY MABRY, there being no further business before the Commission, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid R. Kliffel
Recording Secretary

Approved,

Julia Dalrymple
Secretary

Approved,

Tom Correll
Trail Manager