

PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

APPROVED

October 15, 2024



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

REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION
Paint Creek Cider Mill
4480 Orion Road, Rochester, MI 48306

The October 15, 2024, meeting of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the main conference room of the Paint Creek Cider Mill.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Voting Members:

Steve Sage (R), Chairperson
David Walker (RH), Vice-Chairperson
Ken Elwert (RH)
Conner Reiter (Orion)

Voting Alternates:

Martha Olijnyk (Oakland)
David Becker (R)

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT.

Non-Voting Alternates: None

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

Staff: Tom Correll, Trail Manager

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail: Louis Carrio, President; Michael Jahn, Vice-President;
Matt Reimann, Treasurer

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ABSENT

Voting Members: Brian Blust (Oakland), Robin Buxar (Oakland), Julia Dalrymple (Orion), Linda Gamage (R)

Alternates: Dave Mabry (Oakland), Matt Pfeiffer (Orion), Aaron Whatley (Orion), Sara King (R), Russell George (RH), Carol Morlan (RH)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman 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 SAGE, 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 September 17, 2024, regular meeting and (b) Treasurer's Report for September 2024.

MOVED BY BECKER, SECONDED BY WALKER, to approve and file the minutes of the September 17, 2024, regular meeting as presented, and to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for September 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

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APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Trail Manager Correll and the Commissioners reviewed the list of invoices dated October 15, 2024.

Manager Correll asked that we include payment of the request for reimbursement received from the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail for supplies for the Moutrie Pollinator Garden in the amount of \$58.10.

MOVED BY ELWERT, SECONDED BY WALKER, to approve payment of the invoices as presented with the addition of payment to the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail for garden supplies, for a revised invoice total of \$3,720.12.

AYES: Becker, Elwert, Olijnyk, Reiter, Sage, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Blust, Buxar, Dalrymple, Gamage

MOTION CARRIED.

FRIENDS OF THE PAINT CREEK TRAIL: Update

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail President Louis Carrio, Vice-President Michael Jahn, and Treasurer Matt Reimann were present.

Holiday Party. Mr. Carrio invited the Trailways Commissioners to attend the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail's holiday party. The party will be held on December 10th at 6 p.m. at a local restaurant. The cost is \$20 per person. He will share more details later.

Moutrie Pollinator Garden. The garden looks great. Several new native plants were added this year. The request for reimbursement in the amount of \$58.10 is for the purchase of these plants, as well as for some supplies for garden maintenance.

Donation From the Estate of Richard Kreuzkamp. President Carrio announced that the Friends of Paint Creek Trail received a very generous donation from the estate of Mr. Kreuzkamp in the amount of approximately \$64,500. While there are no limitations on how this money can be spent, his estate document indicates that he would like the monies to be used for something that recognizes his contribution and that also encourages others to make similar contributions. The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail does not have any project in mind at this time.

The Trailways Commissioners were very touched by and thankful for Mr. Kreuzkamp's generosity.

Chairperson Sage reflected on Mr. Kreuzkamp's life, times spent bicycling the Paint Creek Trail with him, and noted that Mr. Kreuzkamp actively helped with the installation of the bicycle repair station and the drinking fountain at the Tienken Road crossing.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Community Opinion Survey

Manager Correll reported that we have received approximately 400 survey responses to date. The survey will remain open until November 1st.

Accessibility Assessment

Giffels-Webster has completed the accessibility assessment and they are currently compiling their report.

Open House with Stakeholders

The open house with stakeholders is now tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th, from 7 to 9 p.m. Manager Correll asked the Commissioners to review the names on the invitation list and let him know of any corrections or additions. He will send out invitations on Friday.

Update Schedule

While we are a bit behind in reviewing updates for each section, Manager Correll does not feel we need to revise the schedule.

PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

Manager Correll reviewed the draft budget for the 2025 fiscal year.

The Commissioners first discussed revenues. “Member Unit Contribution for Commission and Office Operations and Staff” will increase by 3 percent. He also projects that the “Member Unit Contribution for Patrol Program Based on Community Mileage” for the mounted patrol will increase. Vice-Chairperson Walker said the City of Rochester Hills experienced a 20 percent increase in the cost of their school liaison, so he anticipates that we may also see a significant increase in our contract with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department for the mounted patrol. Additionally, “Transfer from Legal Services (License Fees)” will increase as the new license agreements become effective.

The Commissioners then discussed expenditures. Our auditor has retired, so we will need to locate a new auditor. Therefore, we may need to adjust this line item (“Auditing Fee”). Manager Correll increased costs for “Administrative Personnel” the same amount as the previous year.

The budget also includes a budgeted amount for “Trail Projects – Document Scanning,” which will allow us to scan historical documents. Commissioner Becker felt that it is

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important to have the history of the Commission preserved and available online. Chairperson Sage said we first need to make sure we have a functioning website, and acknowledged that we are working with a designer on this right now. Manager Correll noted out that the website redesign project includes a document portal.

Manager Correll will email the Commissioners the draft budget with the line item notes included. The Commission can then consider approval of the budget at the November meeting. He will also include budget information regarding the bridge project.

LICENSE AGREEMENTS

Manager Correll shared a spreadsheet listing the license agreements and the status of each with respect to updates. He hopes that these will be ready to send to the licensees in early November. Vice-Chairperson Sage said we have been working on this project for some time, and it will be good to finally have these updated license agreements in place.

ENCROACHMENT UPDATES

Manager Correll reviewed the status of the encroachment at 4763 Forest Ridge Court, as well as that of the encroachment at 1850 N. Livernois. Neither homeowner has appealed the denial of their request for limited use permit, and neither has removed the encroachment.

Vice-Chairperson Walker reviewed the Commission's policy regarding encroachments. The Commissioners directed Manager Correll to follow this policy to the letter, acknowledging that he may need to resend some information to these homeowners.

Manager Correll will update the Commission at the November meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORTS

Manager Correll reviewed his memorandum of October 10th.

Complaints, Vandalism, Feedback

e-Bicycles on Trail. Staff received a complaint of e-bicycles going too quickly and not being courteous. The person urged the Commission to do more education regarding trail etiquette.

Repairs and Maintenance

Drinking Fountain at Flagstar Bank. This drinking fountain has been closed for approximately two months. The water was recently tested and found it to be within normal limits. Flagstar Bank has a new contact person who will be handling issues regarding the fountain, and Manager Correll and Oakland Township Maintenance Foreman Doug Caruso will meet with this person.

Follow Up/Ongoing Projects

Website Redesign. The web design contractor will create two design templates for the Commission's consideration. Commissioner Olijnyk noted that often the designer can send out a link to allow the Commissioners and staff to try out a new design, and she asked that Manager Correll have the contractor do this. Chairperson Sage agreed that it would be good for the Commissioners to review the options, but feels the Commission should seek the recommendation from staff as they are the ones who will primarily be using it.

MNRTF Grant Regarding Bridge 31.7 Replacement. We have received the Project Agreement from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for this project.

Vanguard Chapter, Trout Unlimited: Phase 3 Fish Sampling Results. Vanguard Chapter, Trout Unlimited undertook a phased project to improve the fish habitat in the Paint Creek. Manager Correll shared results from recent fish sampling following this work, which show that the numbers of both brown trout and rainbow trout have increased quite a bit since last year.

Medical Emergencies, Police, Fire Calls on Trail

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

COMMISSIONER REITER'S REPORT

VanTassel Bridge in Orion Township

Commissioner Reiter explained that this bridge was apparently not constructed with standardized engineered boards, and his staff is now dealing with warped boards that are difficult to secure. He assured the Commission that his staff is working to address this situation.

COMMISSIONER ELWERT'S REPORT

Bridges in City of Rochester Hills

The City of Rochester Hills will have an engineering firm conduct a review of bridges in that municipality, including those that are along the Paint Creek Trail. Commissioner Elwert will share their report (as applicable) with the Commission.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY ELWERT, SECONDED BY WALKER, there being no further business before the Commission, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid R. Kliffel
Recording Secretary

Approved,

Julia Dalrymple
Secretary

Approved,

Tom Correll
Trail Manager