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

CALL TO ORDER: The Tuesday, January 7, 2020 Special Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker at 7:30 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Rock Blanchard, Frank Ferriolo, Linda Gamage, Donni Steele, Jeff Stout, David Walker

Voting Alternates Present: David Becker, Martha Olijnyk

Non-Voting Alternates Present: Clara Pinkham

Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Present: Brad Mathisen

Voting Members Absent: Steve Sage, Hank Van Agen

Alternates Absent: Chris Barnett, Robin Buxar, Ben Giovanelli, Chris Hagen, Theresa Mungoli

Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Absent: None

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Blanchard, seconded by Gamage, ***Moved***, to approve the January 7, 2020 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING: 2020-2024 Paint Creek Trailways Commission Recreation Master

Plan: Ms. Ford thanked the people in the audience for coming to the meeting and looks forward to their input. The Master Plan has been available online for the last month, and notices were published in the *Rochester Post* and the *Lake Orion Review*. All comments heard will be included in the Master Plan.

Chairperson Becker opened the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

Mr. George Ingram, 520 Driscoll Dr., Oakland Township, came forward and summarized an email sent to staff listing minor typos. He commented on page 57, it talks about the Orion Township completing the first phase of linking the Paint Creek Trail to the Polly Ann Trail with the construction of a safety path boardwalk along the north side of Clarkston Road and the next

phase will continue the trail west to the Paint Creek Trail where it crosses Clarkston – this should read “east” rather than “west”. The same verbiage is on page 92; change to east rather than west. On page 94, trail etiquette could mention not riding horses or mountain bikes when the trail is soft in order not to make marks if the Commission wants to address this issue. On page 99, the word conversing, he suggested the word be transversing or crossing. It’s a great document.

Mr. Louis Carrio, 1257 Candlestick Ln., Rochester Hills, came forward and commented on page 94, objective 1, item #4 it says investigate the feasibility of cross country skiing on the trail and consider developing policy to accommodate the use. He stated he uses the trail to ski on, and thought it would be nice if there was grooming – he supports this mission. He added that the first skiers on the trail make tracks, but what happens is that dogs and runners using the trail afterwards make the tracks unusable. He suggests looking for a place that doesn’t have a lot of traffic, and how the trail might be divided. He has seen on different trails signs designating “ski right, walk left”. Grooming alone will not make the trail skier friendly. On page 95, item #5 has to do with safety and there is a reference to flashing beacon pedestrian lights at Adams Road. As this is a dangerous intersection, he supports a flashing light being installed. Also in the same section, item #1 and item #5 might be redundant as they both deal with a flashing light at Adams Road. Item #6 says to develop a volunteer bike patrol program – people like to see the patrol, and he feels the Friends Group might be a good resource to help with this effort. He asked with the extension of the trail into Lake Orion, is the trail still 8.9 miles long or longer, or if the Commission considers this separate. Chairperson Becker indicated with the extension, the trail is longer than the 8.9 miles. It might be a good suggestion, even though the extension is not formally the Paint Creek Trail – it only has the right to use the name. The Commission needs to think about this, and perhaps the Village of Lake Orion Rep has some comments on this. Mr. Carrio then commented the stairs for Bridge 33.7 is listed as an action item for 2021 – he asked if this could be done in 2020, as people appealed for this effort. Mr. Carrio indicated the document is a great plan looking ahead as well as a great history of the trail – well done!

Ms. Michelle Litkouhi of Dryden, came forward, commented the history included in the plan is great, and said she uses the trail for many things – walking with and without dogs, and horse riding. She mentioned other trails segregate the uses - a separate trail next to the gravel trail for the horses so you don’t have the different uses mixing. She feels safer on this type of trail. Out west the horse people and the bikers have their own trails, keeping the main trail open for public use, and everyone was aware of the etiquette on both sides. Also, there would be more horses if there was accessibility to park the trailers. Ms. Ford indicated Oakland Township is putting in a new parking lot off Orion Road and north of Adams, with parking for horse trailers.

Chairperson Becker asked if there were any more comments. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. He commented if anyone would like to make comments in private, please email them to Ms. Ford, and they will be included in the minutes.

Commission Comments: Chairperson Becker summarized a few policy suggestions that were made – the beacon lights at Adams Road (already included in the plan), and the stairs at Bridge 33.7 should be listed for 2020 in the Action Plan. If the Commission would like to see that, we should let staff know so it can be included in the next revision of the plan which will be approved at the next meeting. Mr. Blanchard wants to look at the plan to see how many other projects are included for 2020 before adding it, as funding could be an issue. Ms. Gamage commented that Trout Unlimited had expressed interest in assisting with this project and asked if 2021 their time line. Ms. Ford said no, she came up with 2021; it was a matter of getting the design and funding in place. Ms. Olijnyk suggested putting in a range of 2020 through 2021. The Commission agreed. Mr. Becker continued – the different lanes for different uses – that is a big project which

may have to wait a while, and may be difficult to do with the size of the trail right-of-way. Cross country skiing is already included in the plan, and the Commission needs to consider whether to move forward with it in the future. Ms. Gamage thanked Ms. Litkouhi for her comments on different lanes for different uses, is not sure this should be listed in the Master Plan, but it does fit in with ways to raise awareness regarding etiquette. Ms. Ford addressed her memo included in the packet. Giffels Webster has made some recommendations on edits they believe should be made. Everyone should have an updated copy of the Action Program based on their recommendations; the changes are made in red. They also recommended that some of the background information that is included in the plan now be moved into the appendix. Ms. Ford asked the Commission what they felt, and they agreed to move the information into the appendix. The main change is splitting the first goal into two separate ones – one for access and one for use. There has been a little bit of reorganization of objectives based on the consultant's recommendations. All changes have been made in red in the document. Mr. Becker said in the plan we mention cooperation with the Girl Scout program, and asked if cooperation with Boy Scouts or Eagle Scouts in the plan. Ms. Ford said they are included in the plan, but will double check to make sure. He also feels the Dinosaur Hill Bridge should be included as a specific item as he's concerned about the safety of the bridge. Ms. Ford said the project is included in the Capital Improvements schedule, and can be included as an Action Item as a separate goal. The Commission agreed. Mr. Blanchard suggested as a future agenda item, the Commission talk about some signage for cross country skiing during the winter. Ms. Olijnyk commented that at one of the earlier planning meetings, there was a sign-in sheet which is attached to the Master Plan. This sheet includes people's personal email addresses, and she's not sure people were told this would be included in a public document. She suggested the emails be blacked-out when the plan is published.

Chairperson thanked everyone for reading the plan, and for those coming to the meeting and providing comments.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Signage Fabrication Services: Ms. Olijnyk spoke on behalf of the Branding and Signage Committee. The Commission talked about having to use the grant money by April 30th – there is \$27,000 left. The Committee collected quotes from a number of different companies for fabrication and installation, and they recommend we engage the Rochester Sign Shop for fabrication at this point. They were the lowest bidder, and there may be an opportunity for a percentage discount – the Committee will discuss with them to clarify if this will be offered, as there was discussion of a potential 10% discount. Based on the cost of the signs, we can't do everything we want to do which is way-finding, gateway, kiosks and road signs. The Committee is recommending to do two gateway signs, one at each end of the trail, and eight kiosks at locations to be determined, but likely at parking lots and Rochester Municipal Park. The Committee is going to meet to finalize exact locations before the next meeting. If we do eight kiosks and two gateway signs, that would take it up to \$28,900, so that's very close to what we have in grant monies and also includes some contingency as we don't know if there's going to be set-up fees. If we do get the 10% discount, we might actually be able to do the ninth kiosk, as a total of nine was recommended. The Committee's recommendation is to do two gateways and eight to nine kiosks in order to satisfy the grant requirement. The signs must be erected by April 30th, so the Committee is requesting to have a February meeting as we need to provide the Commission with updates to the actual map and the language and wording to be included on the signs. The Committee would like to do that in February, which allows two months to fabricate and install the signs in the spring. Mr. Ferriolo wants to make sure the signs will be fabricated with the design approved by the Commission, because the handout looks a little different. Ms. Olijnyk said yes, the handout includes just examples of what they've done. She confirmed the Committee is recommending aluminum signs. Upon a question about whether the

map showing kiosk sign locations is correct, Ms. Olijnyk said no – those are recommendations from the designer. Ms. Ford indicated where the Committee is thinking of placing the kiosks – at Rochester Municipal Park, Ludlow, Tienken, Dutton, Silver Bell, Gallagher, Paint Creek Junction, Clarkston/Kern and one somewhere near Atwater. As far as installation goes, Ms. Ford has commitment from Oakland Township that they are able to install the signs, but she needs to verify with the other three municipalities to see if they are able to do the installation. Ms. Olijnyk indicated that Rochester Sign Shop does installation but it's \$600 per sign, so that's \$6,000 for the proposed ten signs. The Commission thanked the Committee for their great recommendation. **MOTION** by Blanchard, seconded by Walker, *Moved*, to approve the Committee's recommendation to contract with Rochester Sign Shop for the proposed two gateway signs and eight or nine kiosk signs.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Bridge 33.7 Construction Administration Change Order: Ms. Ford passed out the change order to all members tonight. We will be putting in the timber approach railings at the bridge due to safety issues. Mannik Smith has informed her that this requires a change order on their part. Because of the work and being an MDOT project, inspectors need to be on site for two days. The change order cost will be \$2,150. There is money in the grant to cover this cost. Ms. Gamage asked when they provided the costs, if they were asked to provide this service for us. Ms. Ford asked them if it was necessary and why it had to be two days. They replied that MDOT requires the inspectors and it will be up to two days. Ms. Gamage asked if there was any talk about Mannik Smith providing this service as in-kind. Ms. Ford said no, and was told that if we don't want to have inspectors there, we don't have to, but MDOT will have an issue with that. Ms. Gamage is not suggesting we don't have someone there, she's suggesting we ask Mannik Smith to provide this work based on past issues we've had with the project requiring this additional safety measure. Ms. Ford will ask, and Chairperson Becker offered to ask as well as he feels this is an unnecessary expense that should have been anticipated in the original bridge work and we should not be paying for it.

MOTION by Blanchard, seconded by Gamage, *Moved*, to approve the change order in the amount of \$2,150, with the caveat the Commission ask Mannik Smith to provide the work gratis.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS: Mr. Mathisen indicated he will check with the Village about adding the length of the extension to the trail mileage and will let Ms. Ford know. Mr. Becker asked if staff can do this based on the Village's recommendation. Ms. Gamage, Mr. Ferriolo and Mr. Blanchard are not in favor of adding the mileage without discussion by the Commission and Council's approval. Ms. Steele cautioned the Commission about excluding the Orion extension from the total mileage as people think it's part of the trail. To exclude this off the maps and Master Plan is a mistake that will be confusing. For now, the Master Plan will show the trail mileage at 8.9. Chairperson Becker called for a February meeting. Thank you to the public attending, the Signage Committee for their work and staff and each Committee for their work on the Master Plan.

ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL MEETING:

MOTION by Gamage, seconded by Stout, *Moved*, to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. – Paint Creek Cider Mill
Respectfully submitted,

MELISSA FORD, Trail Manager

HANK VAN AGEN, Secretary