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**REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION**  
**Rochester Municipal Offices**  
**400 Sixth Street, Rochester, MI 48306**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Tuesday, July 19, 2022 Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steele at 7:00 p.m.

**Voting Members Present:** Ken Elwert, Linda Gamage, Donni Steele, David Walker  
**Voting Alternates Present:** Dave Mabry, Martha Olijnyk, Patrick Ross  
**Non-Voting Alternates Present:** Chris Shepard  
**Voting Members Absent:** Brian Blust, Robin Buxar, Steve Sage, Aaron Whatley  
**Alternates Absent:** David Becker, Julia Dalrymple, Carol Morlan, Ann Peterson  
**Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Absent:** Jason Peltier  
**Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Alternate Absent:** Jerry Narsh  
**Others Present:** Melissa Ford, Trail Manager, Eryn Grupido, Administrative Assistant Candidate, Sandi DiSipio, Recording Secretary

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR SHARON CREPS:** The Commission observed a moment of silence for Ms. Creps, a former Commissioner, who passed away.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** All rose and recited the Pledge.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Steele proposed that Item #9 Update from the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail Subcommittee be postponed until the next meeting.

**MOTION** by Gamage, seconded by Mabry, ***Moved***, to approve the July 19, 2022 agenda as amended.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes – June 21, 2022 Regular Meeting, approve and file
- b. Treasurers Report – June 2022, receive and file

**MOTION** by Walker, seconded by Mabry, ***Moved***, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES:** Ms. Ford presented the list of invoices totaling \$18,748.91. In addition to the recorder's fee, this amount includes credit card charges for recording of the deed for the MNRTF grant, GoToMeeting fees for June, postage and dog waste bags; invoice for MMRMA's annual premium and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr wage and FICA for three staff positions and staff's shared copier costs. Estimated unrestricted fund balance is \$93,000.

**MOTION** by Elwert, seconded by Olijnyk, *Moved*, that the invoices presented for payment are approved as presented in the amount of \$18,748.91 and orders be drawn for payment.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Elwert, Gamage, Mabry, Olijnyk, Ross, Steele, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL: Temporary Permit, Stephanie Beale – The New Foster Care 5k – October**

**1st:** Ms. Ford explained the date has been changed to October 1<sup>st</sup> from the date on the application of August 13<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Beale added that the time has been revised from 9:00-11:30am to 9:00 to 10:00am. Ms. Beale asked that they be allowed to use part of the trail for the 5k race, and submitted the insurance paperwork and the fee to Ms. Ford at the meeting. Mr. Walker asked the applicant why she chose the Paint Creek Trail for the event as she's not from the area. Ms. Beale said she chose the trail as she grew up using the trail. Mr. Walker thanked her for that. Ms. Beale said the funds will go to the New Foster Care, which works with youths who are transitioning out of foster care at age 18 and don't have any familial support or relatives to lean on – they provide them with service programs to help them transition into successful lives. Registration is open to 300 participants which is an estimate; there will be no more than 300 people. The race will be a timed run, the start/finish line is near the Lake Orion Horseshoe Club, and will cross over Atwater Street onto the trail. There will be a table and a trash bin at the turnaround near Clarkston/Kern. Ms. Olijnyk asked that the applicant let staff know via email how the event went; how many people participated, if they had a good experience if there's anything the Commission can do better for future events.

**MOTION** by Elwert, seconded by Walker, *Moved*, to approve the temporary permit for the New Foster Care 5k Run on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Labor Day Bridge Walk – September 5, 2022:** Ms. Ford summarized the memo included in the packet. The Sponsorship form, included in the packet, is now available. She spoke with Mr. Blust, the Volunteer Coordinator, who has the task list used last year and will use SignUpGenius listing the different volunteer spots. Ms. Ford spoke with Trout Unlimited and the Clinton River Watershed Council about participating, and both seem interested to attend and have a booth at the event. She also received brochures of the Fisherman's Guide to the Creek from the Watershed Council showing all the fishing locations on the creek; these will be handed out at the event. Regarding the promotional items, Ms. Ford explained we have \$500 budgeted the event and included some ideas in her memo, including fishing poles for the kids (which would be more expensive), fish pens, Swedish fish, gummy worms, fish-shaped flower seed packets, and sunblock. Ms. Ford also indicated that Rochester Council approved a waiver of the \$75 permit application that we paid last month. Mr. Walker also found a fishing lure keychain from a member of the Chamber of Commerce and mentioned we still need to come up with a project/cause the donations should be applied toward. As we're leaning toward a fishing theme, Mr. Walker asked if Trout Unlimited could be the recipient. Ms. Ford said they are seeking grants for their project, but would probably appreciate the support from the Commission. Mr. Elwert asked why we don't designate the donations towards the Trail and its operation – what's the origin of designating a special cause for fund-raising? Ms. Gamage gave a brief summary of how we started designating a cause - we thought if there was a specific project people were donating to, they might donate a little more. Ms. Gamage suggested donations could go towards the bridge replacement project. Ms. Steele agreed that the bridge project would be a good cause and suggested gummy fish or worms could be purchased at Costco at less cost, and we could possibly bag them. Ms. Gamage volunteered to bag them. It was suggested to have a Swedish Fish/gummy worms mix for the promotional item. Ms. Olijnyk will talk to Mr. Blust about how the Volunteer task sheet worked for her.

**DISCUSSION: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant Program:** Ms. Ford summarized the memo included in the packet. Ms. Ford indicated she's a part of Rochester's grant committee and the Spark Grant Program has been discussed recently in their meetings. This grant opportunity from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for public recreational development has a total of \$65 million available over three rounds of funding, the first round will award \$15 million in funding. The City of Rochester doesn't have a project at this time that is ready to be submitted for the first round, so it was suggested the Commission apply for the first round of funding for the development of the Commission's Southeast Rochester property as it's ready to go. Ms. Ford gave some background information on the property and the history of the project. In 2019, the Commission included this project as an alternate bid item in its trail resurfacing project. Due to perceived funding shortages at the time, the Commission chose to scrap that project. Since that time, we have applied for funding the project twice through Rep. Slotkin's Community Project Funding program, but both requests were denied. Ms. Ford indicated the memo includes current available information on the Spark Grant program, which is not much as the program is just getting underway; no deadlines have been included. She did have another discussion with Rochester while at another meeting, and they still have major reservations about putting a kayak landing site at the property, as the fire department felt this was an unsafe location due to its proximity to the bridge. The city would support building an observation deck at the site, resurfacing the existing trail and adding user amenities such as picnic tables or benches. Ms. Ford has asked Rochester's engineering firm, AEW, to update the cost estimate of the project, one that includes the kayak launch site and another eliminating it. Mr. Walker commented the property is a half-acre in size, in the middle of nowhere between Rochester and Rochester Hills and does not connect to our trail, and he has trouble investing any money in this property; it might be worth it to one of the municipalities. Perhaps we could donate it or sell it to one of them and let them worry about it. Regarding a kayak launch or landing here, Mr. Elwert asked where they would pull in and out or park, and commented the dam is just downriver from this location. He's fine with the observation deck, but doesn't support a kayak landing for safety reasons. Mr. Elwert asked if Rochester discussed trying to align the grant with applying for the bridge project. Ms. Ford said they did talk about it, but doesn't think they will be ready for the first round of funding. Mr. Elwert said there's a question if you can apply for all three rounds of funding, and the grant is better for renovation than new projects. Ms. Gamage added she's been involved with this project since the beginning, and even though it's a small parcel seemingly in the middle of nowhere, it's an important piece of land which is right before Bloomer Park and a part of the bridge and is the side trail between the Clinton River Trail, over the bridge to Bloomer Park. She doesn't believe we're able to sell it, only maybe trade it for another parcel, as this was part of the acquisition of trail property from the railway as part of the DNR grant. Ms. Gamage said the reason we wanted to develop this property is because the Clinton River Trail put in shade shelter at the side path, as this is a highly used path over to Bloomer Park to connect with their trails. This area is used by kayakers, but concurs this is a dangerous area to kayak on the Clinton River. Ms. Gamage did not support a kayak launch on this property, as there's a natural area on the downriver side of the bridge with a sandbar for a possible take-out area, but mentioned there is a current problem with phragmites there. Ms. Gamage suggested the Commission take another look at this property. Ms. Ford said there's another Cisma grant opportunity in the fall, so we can have them look at this property again for the phragmites. Ms. Gamage added the reason this property exists is because that's where the two railroads crossed and we got to keep this one portion as it was a part of what our trail is now. She also thinks it's historically important as there's likely a remnant of the Clinton/Kalamazoo Canal on it, the Commission owns it and we didn't want it to get lost on our asset list. Ms. Gamage was asked to research this for the next meeting. Mr. Elwert asked if we've talked about how this area would be maintained and inspected. Ms. Ford indicated the bike patroller already

goes there, and Rochester would be responsible for maintenance. Ms. Steele agrees that an observation deck and a picnic table would be valuable on the property, not necessarily a kayak launch, and to have CISMA take another look. Ms. Olijnyk commented if we only have one shot at this grant, it should be the bridge project, but if we can apply for additional rounds, she doesn't have a problem going forward with this project. Ms. Ford agreed. A field trip was scheduled after our September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. This item will be put on a future agenda once more information on the DNR's grant program becomes available.

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Administrative Assistant Candidate:** Ms. Ford forwarded Ms. Eryn Grupido's resume application materials to the members. She has accepted the position, is present tonight, starting in the office tomorrow, and Ms. Ford is excited to have her on board. The Commissioner's all introduced themselves, and Ms. Grupido said she's excited to work with everyone. Welcome Eryn!!

**MOTION** by Elwert, seconded by Mabry, *Moved*, to approve hiring Ms. Grupido as Administrative Assistant to the Commission, 12 hours a week, at \$15.00/hr.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Elwert, Gamage, Mabry, Olijnyk, Ross, Steele, Walker

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Letter of Jurisdiction for Road Commission for Oakland**

**County Dutton Road Bridge Project:** Ms. Ford indicated it sounds like the Road Commission will be putting in the safety path and a handicap spot in the parking lot, which will be nice. A draft letter to the Road Commission is included in the packet for approval by Chairperson Steele. **MOTION** by Olijnyk, seconded by Gamage, *Moved*, to approve Chairperson Steele signing the Letter of Jurisdiction to the Road Commission for Oakland County's Dutton Road Bridge Project on behalf of the Commission.

Ayes: All Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Ford summarized her written report. The map and wayfinding sign adjacent to Municipal Park and Bridge 33.3 have been tagged with graffiti, Rochester and Rochester Hills have been notified and it will be taken care of. The final \$30,000 reimbursement check has been received from DNR for the Bridge 33.7 MNRTF Grant. The log jam at Bridge 31.7 was removed on June 25<sup>th</sup>. ASTI Environmental performed the mussel recon at Bridge 31.7 on June 30<sup>th</sup> – no mussels were found. The next step is receiving concurrence from the DNR that the full survey is not needed. ASTI will begin the wetland delineation and the rest of the endangered species survey. After meeting with Rochester and AEW to discuss the bridge project, they plan to begin the topographical survey shortly. A log of e-bike complaints was included and will continue to be monitored, although there is no way to enforce it. Ms. Ford mentioned she will be on vacation next week.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Mr. Shepard commented he will be replaced on the Commission soon. Mr. Ross reported the bike pumps at Van Tassel Bridge will be replaced soon, and the bridge repairs are done. Mr. Walker asked about the reports from the Sheriff's office, Ms. Ford will follow up. The Commissioners welcomed Ms. Grupido.

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:**

**MOTION** by Gamage, seconded by Walker, *Moved*, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: August 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Rochester Municipal Offices**

Respectfully submitted,

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MELISSA FORD, Trail Manager

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DAVID BECKER, Secretary

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