

PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

APPROVED

May 21, 2024



4393 Collins Road
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Paintcreektrail.org

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

The May 21, 2024, meeting of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission was called to order at 7:00 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
Robin Buxar (Oakland)
Ken Elwert (RH)
Linda Gamage (R)
Conner Reiter (Orion)

Voting Alternates:

David Mabry (Oakland)
Sara King (R) (left at 8:25 p.m.)

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: Brian Blust (Oakland), Julia Dalrymple (Orion), Steve Sage (R)

Alternates: Russell George (RH), Carol Morlan (RH), Martha Olijnyk (Oakland), Matt Pfeiffer (Orion), Aaron Whatley (Orion),

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 BUXAR, SECONDED BY GAMAGE, to approve this evening's agenda as presented with the addition of an item to hear a report from the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, and with the correction that the Commission will move to a closed session to consider the matter of the Solaronics License Agreement (item 7).

MOTION CARRIED.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Krebs: Request for Placement of Memorial Plaque on Paint Creek Trail

Jim Krebs was present with his daughter Savannah. He explained that his daughter was dating a 16-year-old Lake Orion high school student when he tragically died while at a robotics tournament in Texas last month. He said the Paint Creek Trail was meaningful to his daughter and her boyfriend, adding that they even had their prom pictures taken there. Mr. Krebs spoke with Manager Correll in advance of the meeting, inquiring about a way to honor the young man, possibly adopting a portion of the Trail, or placing a memorial plaque. If the Commission were to permit it, Mr. Krebs suggested a brass memorial plaque, which he/his family/the robotics team would pay for and maintain.

The Commission expressed their sympathy, and agreed to send this matter to the committee that considers requests for memorials.

CONSENT AGENDA

This evening's Consent Agenda consists of the following: (a) minutes of the April 16, 2024, regular meeting and minutes of the May 1, 2024, special meeting, and (b) Treasurer's Report for April 2024.

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MOVED BY MABRY, SECONDED BY BUXAR, to approve and file the minutes of the April 16, 2024, regular meeting, and the minutes of the May 1, 2024, special meeting as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED BY BUXAR, SECONDED BY MABRY, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for April 2024.

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Trail Manager Correll and the Commissioners reviewed the list of invoices dated May 21, 2024.

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

AYES: Buxar, Elwert, Gamage, King, Mabry, Reiter, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dalrymple

MOTION CARRIED.

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED BY BUXAR, SECONDED BY ELWERT, to enter into a closed session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss the written privileged and confidential attorney-client letter dated May 20, 2024, from legal counsel pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(h).

AYES: Buxar, Elwert, Gamage, King, Mabry, Reiter, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dalrymple

MOTION CARRIED.

MOVED BY ELWERT, SECONDED BY GAMAGE, to reconvene the regular session of the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

AYES: Buxar, Elwert, Gamage, King, Mabry, Reiter, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dalrymple

MOTION CARRIED.

SOLARONICS LICENSE AGREEMENT/CHAMPION DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN

MOVED BY ELWERT, SECONDED BY GAMAGE, to reconsider the motion made at the May 1, 2024, special meeting regarding allowing Solaronics up to 180 days for the remediation work, and to revise this motion to allow Solaronics up to 90 days for the remediation work as set forth in the license agreement, and to request the attorney's clarification regarding when the 90 day remediation period shall be deemed to start.

MOTION CARRIED.

(This motion is found in the May 1, 2024, minutes at page 48, and is the second motion on that page.)

The Commission then affirmed that action as follows:

MOVED BY ELWERT, SECONDED BY GAMAGE, with respect to Solaronics, to obtain the attorney's direction to ensure that Solaronics fulfills its obligations under the license agreement including but not limited to the following: (1) removal of the fence, (2) removal of hazardous materials/remediation, with the understanding that the Paint Creek Trailways Commission will allow Solaronics up to 90 days for the remediation work. Further, the Trailways Commission requests the attorney's clarification regarding when the 90 day remediation period shall be deemed to start.

MOTION CARRIED.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Trail Manager Correll referenced his memorandum of May 8th. National Trails Day will take place on Saturday, June 1st from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Moutrie Pollinator Garden. The Trailways Commission is excited to partner with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail to offer this free drop-in event. They reviewed the flyer advertising the event, which includes a QR code that attendees can scan to access a nature-based, eco-friendly scavenger hunt for children. This will be a great opportunity for the public to interact with Trailways Commission staff and Friends of the Paint Creek Trail members. We will be also be sharing the new trail safety and etiquette brochure with attendees.

WEBSITE PROPOSAL

The Trailways Commission received 10 proposals for the website upgrades. After review of the proposals, Trail Manager Correll is recommending that we contract with IDMI.net. He reviewed the cost summary, and added that this service provider appears to have a good support team. There are adequate monies budgeted for this project.

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The proposal includes an optional upgrade to include a document portal for an additional \$2,500. The Commissioners discussed this and agreed that they do not need it at this time. We can continue to store documents on the website as we currently do.

Commissioner Gamage commented that it would be very helpful to be able to search files such as past minutes, and wondered if there is a way to accomplish this with the new website. Manager Correll said he doesn't believe this sort of service is included in the quote. However, he will inquire about this and whether we will be able to add this service and/or a document portal in the future.

MOVED BY BUXAR, SECONDED BY MABRY, to accept the proposal from IDMI.net for website design work in an amount not to exceed \$9,500, with a monthly recurring fee of \$40 for hosting, and an annual recurring fee of \$595 for SSL and ADA Certificate renewals as presented in their proposal.

AYES: Buxar, Elwert, Gamage, King, Mabry, Reiter, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dalrymple

MOTION CARRIED.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Trailways Commission solicited bids for updating the Master Plan for 2025-2029 but only received one bid. That bid was from Giffels Webster, the consultant that prepared the Master Plan for 2019-2024. The Commissioners reviewed the bid, which offers two cost proposals. The first proposal assumes that much of the document will be prepared by the consultant; the second proposal assumes that much of the document will be prepared by the Trailways Commission and staff. There are optional add-ons offered under both proposals. The Commissioners agreed to move forward with the second proposal at this time with the view that they can add some of the options later if they feel there would be a benefit.

Commissioner King asked if we need to maintain a current Master Plan. Trail Manager Correll explained that it is necessary to apply for certain grants such as those offered through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

MOVED BY ELWERT, SECONDED BY BUXAR, to accept the proposal from Giffels Webster for the Paint Creek Trailways Master Plan 2025-2029 update at a cost not to exceed \$9,100 as presented in their proposal dated May 9, 2024.

AYES: Buxar, Elwert, Gamage, King, Mabry, Reiter, Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dalrymple

MOTION CARRIED.

JUNE FIELD TRIP

The Commission typically takes a field trip prior to the June meeting. Trail Manager Correll proposed that this year we visit the Solaronics site, as well as Bridge 31.7 (located by Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve). The Commissioners agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Solaronics site, prior to the June 18th meeting.

(Commissioner King left at this point, 8:25 p.m.)

UPDATE FROM FRIENDS OF THE PAINT CREEK TRAIL

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail President Louis Carrio was in attendance along with Vice-President Michael Jahn.

Friends of the Clinton River Trail. The Friends of the Clinton River Trail will celebrate their 20th anniversary on May 22nd in Pontiac.

Moutrie Pollinator Garden. The limestone on the pathway leading into the garden is sparse. Commission Elwert will let the Rochester Hills maintenance personnel know of this and ask them to add some more surfacing material.

Mr. Carrio shared a brochure on the pollinator garden. Copies will be placed in the Little Free Library by the garden for visitors to enjoy.

Trail Safety and Etiquette Brochure. Mr. Carrio incorporated the changes proposed at the last regular meeting, had additional brochures printed, and was able to distribute copies through several recent events and local businesses. Commissioners proposed other possible opportunities to share these brochures including at Oakland Township's Music in the Meadows concerts, and at the Royal Park Hotel (which offers their guests bicycles for use on the Trail).

KLM Bike and Fitness in Rochester, which also has these brochures available, suggested displaying the brochures in a small holder and placing a "Call to Reorder" sticker at the back of the holder. Mr. Carrio will look into this.

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail Information Card. These cards share information on the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail and how people may join. They are available in the Little Free Library.

Trail Magazine. The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail purchases an ad in this magazine. In return, they receive approximately 75 copies, which are available in the Paint Creek Trailways office.

MANAGER'S REPORTS

Manager Correll reviewed his memorandum of May 14th.

Complaints, Vandalism, Feedback

Little Free Library. The Little Free Library by Flagstar Bank in Oakland Township was damaged in a spring storm. Oakland Township's maintenance personnel tried to fix it, but it was beyond repair so they have constructed a new one and will install it soon.

Caution Signs for Archery Range. The wooden posts and backing for the "Caution" signs by the Royal Oak Archers property are rotten and will need to be replaced (the signs are in fine condition, however). The Commission will need to determine design style for displaying all four signs in the near future. Commissioner Gamage spoke about the need for branding, and that any replacements should match what we have elsewhere.

Wayfinding Signage at Gunn Road. Manager Correll received a complaint about the wayfinding sign at Gunn Road regarding the bridle path. He responded, trying to clarify the signage. He added that this is apparently not a problem for others as we do not have people unloading or loading horses at the Gunn Road crossing.

Real Estate Sales Sign on Trail. Our bike patroller found a real estate sale sign along the Trail. Manager Correll called the real estate agent and asked that they remove the sign, which they did.

Repairs and Maintenance

Manager Correll had nothing new to report.

Follow Up/Ongoing Projects

Bike Patrol. Our bike patroller, Dan Butterworth, started work on May 7th.

Bald Mountain Connector. Manager Correll had nothing new to report. The Commissioners asked that he contact the MDNR to check on the status of the memorandum of understanding/agreement so that our request is not inadvertently overlooked.

Government Savings Account. Moving forward, the monthly Treasurer's Report will include both the checking and savings account information.

Encroachment: 4763 Forest Ridge Court. 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 will contact the homeowner if he does not hear from her by May 25th.

Medical Emergencies, Police, Fire Calls on Trail

Trail Manager Correll is not aware of any emergencies on the Trail.

COMMISSIONER FORD'S REPORT

National Trails Day

Now that the Commission has approved the National Trails Day event, Administrative Assistant Sands will post the QR code for people to scan to access more information about the event as well as the scavenger hunt.

COMMISSIONER REITER'S REPORT

Trail Maintenance

Commissioner Reiter's staff has been continuing to cut back vegetation along the Trail in Orion Township.

COMMISSIONER ELWERT'S REPORT

Complaints of "Human Waste"/Trail Cam

Manager Correll has not received any complaints regarding this matter. He will return the trail camera.

COMMISSIONER GAMAGE'S REPORT

Clean-Up Near Tienken Road Crossing

Commissioner Gamage's neighborhood picked up litter along the Trail from Lipuma's to Tienken Road. She will share photographs from the event.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON WALKER'S REPORTS

License Agreements

Vice-Chairperson Walker inquired about the status of the license agreements. Manager Correll reported that he sent the attorney additional information. He hopes to hear back from her and be able to meet with the Licensing Committee within the next two weeks or so.

Memorial Request

The Commissioners expressed their interest in responding to Mr. Krebs soon regarding the request for a memorial. Vice-Chairperson Walker said this request needs to go to the Trail Improvement Committee for further consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY GAMAGE, SECONDED BY ELWERT, there being no further business before the Commission, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid R. Kliffel
Recording Secretary

Approved,

Julia Dalrymple
Secretary

Approved,

Tom Correll
Trail Manager