

REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

Held at the City of Rochester Municipal Offices, 400 Sixth Street
Rochester, Oakland County, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER: The Tuesday April 19, 2011 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Rock Blanchard (*exit 7:20 p.m.*), Ben Giovanelli, Edward Peters, Kathy Thomas, Maryann Whitman, Ravi Yalamanchi (*enter 7:07 p.m.*), Alice Young

Voting Alternates Present: Linda Gamage (*chairing the meeting after 7:20 p.m.*)

Non-Voting Alternates Present: David Becker, Nathan Klomp, Paul Miller (*enter 7:38 p.m.*), Martha Olijnyk

Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Present: Doug Hobbs

Voting Members Absent: Richard Schultz

Alternates Absent: Mark Crane, Marc Edwards

Others Present: John Makris (*enter 7:30 p.m.*), Attorney, Kristen Myers, Trail Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Whitman, supported by Giovanelli, ***Moved***, to approve the April 19, 2011 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Philip Miller, 1004 W. Gunn Road, Oakland Township, spoke of his concern regarding the horses on the trail. The riders are not picking up the horse manure, creating problems for the walkers. He indicated that per ordinance, the riders are supposed to clean up after their horses. He asked why horses are even allowed on the trail. Ms. Myers added that Oakland Township did not approve the “clean up after your horse” section in their ordinance. Clean up may fall under the “disposal of waste” section in their ordinance. The Ordinance Subcommittee needs to review this and the issue will be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes – March 15, 2011 Regular Meeting, approve and file
- b. Treasurers Report – March 2011, receive and file
- c. Temporary Permit Request: Oakland Twp. Parks – NTD Hit the Trail, June 4, 2011
- d. Approval of revised invoice – March 2011

The March 15, 2011 minutes were removed from the consent agenda.

MOTION by Young, supported by Whitman, ***Moved***, that the consent agenda be approved as amended.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Correction to Minutes: Under Outreach Project with Dinosaur Hill – state what the nature of the project is by adding the words “non-motorized transportation education outreach project” at the end of the first sentence.

MOTION by Gamage, supported by Whitman, *Moved*, to approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2011 Regular Meeting as amended.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES: Ms. Myers presented the invoices in the amount of \$616.61. This amount includes the Trail Manager’s 1st quarter mileage reimbursement, six new bike patrol shirts and payment to Oakland Township for 1st quarter Xerox usage. Fund balance is estimated at \$23,000.

MOTION by Young, supported by Yalamanchi, *Moved*, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$616.61 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TEMPORARY PERMIT REQUEST – Camp Mak-A-Dream Cycling Event – August 21,

2011: Mr. Pete Grimes, representing the Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream, explained the request. Approximately 100 participants are expected for a recreational cycling event, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., to raise funds to send kids to cancer camp in Montana during the summer. There is no specific route and it will not be a race. Participants have the option to use any of the three trails in the area. They will use Rochester Mills Brewery’s excess parking lot as the start and finish area. Insurance paperwork will be provided prior to the event. Mr. Giovanelli indicated the applicant needs to contact the City of Rochester because the event will be staged within the City. **MOTION** by Giovanelli, supported by Gamage, *Moved*, that the temporary permit for the Camp Mak-A-Dream cycling event on August 21, 2011 be approved, pending receipt of insurance paperwork.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

(Vice-Chairperson Gamage began chairing the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

TEMPORARY PERMIT REQUEST – Rochester Area Neighborhood House – October 23,

2011: Ms. Linda Riggs, representing the Rochester Area Neighborhood House, explained the request. Approximately 200-400 participants are expected for the Scare Away Hunger 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. fundraiser. The goal is to raise food and funds for the food pantry. The trail area between Ludlow and Tienken will be used for the run/walk event. Information has been submitted to the City of Rochester. Insurance paperwork will be provided prior to the event.

MOTION by Giovanelli, supported by Thomas, *Moved*, that the temporary permit for the Rochester Area Neighborhood House Scare Away Hunger walk/run event on October 23, 2011 be approved, pending receipt of insurance paperwork.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

GUNN ROAD SNOWPLOWING DISCUSSION: Ms. Myers indicated this issue came to her attention two years ago after a heavy snowfall resulted in a large pile of snow falling to the trail when the County plowed the Gunn Road bridge. The individual was concerned about the safety of trail users. No complaints were filed during this winter season. This issue was turned over to Oakland Township, but they have asked the Commission to address it. Ms. Thomas will bring this issue to the attention of Oakland Township officials. Warning signs could be posted along the trail alerting users to falling snow/ice from above. A resolution or letter could be drafted annually from the Commission and reviewed by our attorney requesting the Road Commission slow down on the bridge as a way of decreasing the Commission’s liability. Mr. Giovanelli will contact the County Commissioner relative to this issue. After a short discussion, it is agreed Ms.

Thomas will speak with Oakland Township officials, warning signs could be posted on the trail, and a resolution/letter to the Road Commission, including the request that plowing be done at night when the trail is closed, will be drafted by the Trail Manager for review by the Commission.

PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: Ms. Olijnyk explained the subcommittee gathered all the evaluations that the Commissioners filled out. The evaluations have been summarized for each of the individuals, and meetings are being set up to go over the results. A report and any recommendations will be submitted to the Commission once these meetings have taken place.

REQUEST FROM ORION TOWNSHIP TO FUND ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDY IN BALD MOUNTAIN REC AREA: A memo summarizing this request was included in the packet. Ms. Myers explained that before Orion Township can complete the surfacing project for the Bald Mountain connector north of Clarkston/Kern, the DNR is requiring a study on the Native American historical significance of the area. The Commission received a request from the Township to fund the survey costs of \$950.00. The development of this trail connector will cost Orion Township approximately \$45,000. It was suggested that grant opportunities be researched. If the project is to be done this year, there is a very small timeframe to seek grant funding. There is no money in the budget, however there are a few line items with remaining funds that could be used. The Commission could offer to pay half, or use some money from the fund balance to cover the entire cost. There is benefit to the Commission as an art project is proposed for this area. We would also receive a copy of the study which would be useful to the Commission. The question was asked if we could use our funds to pay for a survey that is not on trailway property. Mr. Makris clarified the Commission can spend money to do things off the trail that benefit the trail. If a contribution was made to the Friends Group, could that group and the Commission go in together on the total cost to cover the funding? Mr. Makris replied yes. It would make sense to have donations to offset the costs. The recommendation is to pursue possible grant funding, with the Friends Group covering the rest. Orion Township's Historical Society could also be approached for funding.

MOTION by Giovanelli, supported by Whitman, *Moved*, that the Commission supports the archeological study agreeing to supply 50% of the funding and to pursue donations for the other half.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

FRIENDS OF THE PAINT CREEK TRAIL MERCHANDISE POLICY: Ms. Myers asked if there was any possibility of selling trail merchandise at cost to the Friends group so that any profit goes to that group. The Commission purchased hats at a cost of \$6.60 each and sells them for \$10 each. The bells are sold for \$1.00 each; cost unknown as they are 15 years old. The Friends group currently does not have funds to purchase their own merchandise for sale. Mr. Makris indicated that as long as the Commission's cost is covered, it's fine. If in the future, the Friends group wants to market something on their own using the trail logo, the Commission would need to approve and license it. Ms. Myers suggested that the hats be sold to the Friends group as there is a cost involved, and the tee-shirts and bells could be gifted to them as they are very old and are of zero value.

MOTION by Whitman, supported by Young, *Moved*, to donate the remaining tee-shirts, sweatshirts and bells to the Friends group for their resale. The hats will be sold to the Friends group at a cost of \$6.60 each.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

EQUESTRIAN USE – SEASONAL LIMITATIONS DISCUSSION: Ms. Whitman requested this item be discussed. Included in the packet are Oakland Township’s equestrian limits in Bear Creek Park, which is closed to horse use from March 1 to June 8 annually. Possibly this could be imposed on the PCT because of surface damage. Discussion ensued, and the consensus is not to put restrictions on trail unless they are really necessary. Ms. Myers indicated some damage has occurred in the past near Adams Road and near the Clarkston/Kern areas. It is suggested that during the upcoming spring season, any damage to the trail and resulting repair costs be documented. Notices could also be posted on the trail website and facebook asking horse riders and cyclists to curtail use during wet conditions to help maintain the trail. Oakland Township could consider restricting equestrian use in their township should they desire.

MANAGER’S REPORT: In addition to the written report, Ms. Myers added there is a Friends group meeting at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow night at Times Square Restaurant in Lake Orion. The ADA and Ordinance Subcommittees need to meet soon; Ms. Myers will set up these meetings. The draft 2012 budget needs to be prepared soon and Ms. Myers will be contacting the officers and the elected official commissioners for their forecasting input. Operation expenses will increase due to rent and utility increases at the Cider Mill for the trail office.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: Mr. Makris indicated he has a meeting with the judge’s clerk tomorrow with respect to litigation, why they didn’t accept the Solaronic’s e-filing of all their documents, and the DNR dismissal. The documents need to be recorded after the judgments are entered. Other than the filing costs, Mr. Makris estimates his final invoice should be less than \$2,500. Mr. Makris will send an email to Ms. Myers detailing the results of this meeting. If the ADA subcommittee has any questions they need legal assistance or research on, Mr. Makris offered his help.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioners all commented on the excellent job Ms. Myers did on the individual presentations of trail information to each community. The presentations instilled positive thoughts on what the Commission is all about. The last week of March was national severe weather awareness week – change the batteries in your radios. The Village of Lake Orion is under construction for its facelift; signs advise where to park. The project should be completed by July 1st.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Young, supported by Giovanelli, *Moved*, that the April 19, 2011 Regular Meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: May 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

EDWARD PETERS, Trailways Secretary