

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 August 16, 2011 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Rock Blanchard, Edward Peters, Richard Schultz, Maryann Whitman, Ravi Yalamanchi (*enter 7:30 p.m.*), Alice Young

Voting Alternates Present: David Becker, Nathan Klomp (*voting until 7:30 p.m.*), Martha Olijnyk

Non-Voting Alternates Present: Mark Crane, Linda Gamage, Paul Miller (*enter 7:05 p.m.*)

Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Present: None

Voting Members Absent: Ben Giovanelli, Kathy Thomas

Alternates Absent: Marc Edwards, Jeff Phillips

Others Present: John Makris, Attorney (*enter 7:10 p.m.*), Kristen Myers, Trail Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Add an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter at the end of the regular meeting.

MOTION by Young, supported by Whitman, ***Moved***, to approve the August 16, 2011 agenda as amended.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes – July 19, 2011 Regular Meeting, approve and file
- b. Treasurers Report – July 2011, receive and file
- c. Temporary Permit Request – Brooksie Way, October 2, 2011, approve

MOTION by Becker, supported by Whitman, ***Moved***, that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES: Ms. Myers presented the invoices in the amount of \$2,058.51. In addition to regular monthly expenses, this amount includes the purchase of four event size recycle bins and payment to Oakland County for 96 hours of mounted patrol. The unrestricted fund balance is estimated at \$28,300.

MOTION by Schultz, supported by Whitman, ***Moved***, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$2,058.51 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION: Footbridge on Trail property: Ms. Myers has provided information summarizing the issue (a temporary footbridge crossing a tributary allowing property owners access to the trail), including a survey conducted by a family on Ordam Ct. showing the location of the footbridge prior to it being moved. The portion of the bridge on the Ordam Ct. property has been removed by the homeowner. Ms. Kellie Specialle, 3281 Vera Court, came forward and explained she recently purchased her property. The footbridge originally ran from her property to the Ordam Ct. property, and was placed there by the previous homeowner. Recently, she moved the portion of the bridge on her property - it is still on her property, but the other side of the creek where the bridge is now located is trail property. Ms. Specialle indicated she will have a formal survey completed to determine her property lines and is asking permission to leave the bridge in place for access to the trail. She provided and explained photographs showing the location of the bridge. Ms. Myers then explained that Mr. Makris suggested she contact the Oakland Township Building Department to determine if the property owner needs to do something to even have the bridge there. Per the Building Department, they didn't feel a permit was necessary, however they would like the property owner to contact them to discuss the location of the bridge and also indicated it should be determined if this area is a protected wetland. If so, the DEQ needs to be contacted. Ms. Myers found information that the bridge is located in a potential wetland area. Chairman Blanchard clarified that the encroachment and license permit subcommittee has developed a policy on how to deal with these types of issues. Ms. Nora Campos, owner of the Ordam Ct. property, came forward and explained the bridge was originally in her back yard. It allowed traffic from Vera Ct. to the trail as well as trail user traffic back down to her property, that's why she didn't want the bridge on her property. It was suggested that Ms. Campos put an obvious barrier to stop traffic from the trail to her property; if this doesn't deter the traffic, she should contact the sheriff's office.

After discussion, it is clear the Commission can't act on this request tonight. The next step in the process is for the property owner to have a survey completed on the property in question and then contact Oakland Township and perhaps the DEQ to determine what steps need to be followed. This information could then be brought back to the permit subcommittee for a possible limited use permit recommendation.

LABOR DAY BRIDGE WALK UPDATE: Ms. Myers provided a copy of the letter sent out to past participants and the registration form. This is still a free event, but a participation donation of \$5.00 per family is suggested to help raise \$75,000 toward the Ludlow bridge replacement. According to the City of Rochester, the center pier has given away underneath the bridge - this is not a danger to pedestrian traffic. Originally the bridge was scheduled to be replaced in 3-4 years, but Tienken Road is scheduled for changes in 2013, which may affect trail traffic. The thought was to schedule bridge repair at the same time, making it eligible for federal and state grants because there is more immediacy to replace the bridge. The repair is estimated at \$330,000. The grant funders will appreciate the fact that trail users are participating in the replacement of the bridge. Sponsors have been secured for the event; coffee and bagels will be offered at the start, and fudge will be available (of course!). The Friends Group will be volunteering at the tables. Tee-shirts have been ordered. Volunteers are still needed.

MANAGER'S REPORT: In addition to the written report, Ms. Myers reported that detour signs for the trail are posted in downtown Rochester because of the planned enhancements to the Rochester River Walk area. Enhancements are planned underneath the bridge as well as steps and landscaping improvements. Pedestrian enhancements are planned for the top of the bridge. The art display near this area will not be affected by the construction. Ms. Myers has posted information on the website. The work should be completed by the end of October. Ms. Myers

commented on the after-hours robbery near the trail behind the library. The Rural of a Pearl event has been rescheduled to September 24th. Ms. Myers is awaiting insurance paperwork.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Nothing to report except in executive session.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Chairman Blanchard reported that Mr. Giovanelli has resigned from the Commission effective immediately. Members expressed gratitude for Mr. Giovanelli's service to this Commission – we will miss him. Previously the Commission had discussed snow falling on the trail due to plowing on Gunn Road and the possibility of placing signs warning trail users of this. The County can't do anything about the timing of Gunn Road plowing, however they were willing to work with the Commission – contact should be made in the fall. This issue should be brought forward for discussion at the next meeting. The emergency sirens along the trail have been checked and are all working.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL MATTERS:

MOTION by Schultz, supported by Whitman, *Moved*, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Ayes: Becker, Blanchard, Olijnyk, Peters, Schultz, Whitman, Yalamanchi, Young

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The Regular Meeting was called back to order at 8:10 p.m.

MOTION by Young, supported by Becker, *Moved*, that our Attorney proceed as directed during the Executive Session.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION** by Schultz, supported by Peters, *Moved*, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: September 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

EDWARD PETERS, Trailways Secretary