

REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION

Held at the Paint Creek Cider Mill Building, 4480 Orion Road
Rochester, Oakland County, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER: The Tuesday October 18, 2011 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Rock Blanchard, Edward Peters, Steve Sage, Richard Schultz, Kathy Thomas, Ravi Yalamanchi (*enter 7:07 p.m.*), Alice Young

Voting Alternates Present: Paul Miller (*voting until 7:07 p.m.*), Martha Olijnyk

Non-Voting Alternates Present: David Becker, Mark Crane (*enter 7:10 p.m.*), Linda Gamage

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

Voting Members Absent: Maryann Whitman

Alternates Absent: Marc Edwards, Nathan Klomp, Jeff Phillips

Others Present: Kristen Myers, Trail Manager

Chairperson Blanchard introduced and welcomed Mr. Steve Sage, the new Commissioner from the City of Rochester. The Commission introduced themselves to Mr. Sage.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Young, supported by Peters, *Moved*, to approve the October 18, 2011 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Minutes – September 20, 2011 Regular Meeting, approve and file

b. Treasurers Report – September 2011, receive and file

MOTION by Young, supported by Peters, *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 \$1,665.48.

In addition to regular monthly expenses, this amount includes the Trailway's portion of the Archeological Study for the Bald Mountain connector and the Trail Manager's 3rd quarter mileage reimbursement. The unrestricted fund balance is estimated at \$28,300.

MOTION by Schultz, supported by Thomas, *Moved*, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$1,665.48 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TREE MEMORIAL DONATION DISCUSSION: Ms. Myers explained that a trail user would like the Commission to consider accepting 2-3 Honey Locust trees planted in memory of his friend, Abe Amir. Mr. Amir was a long time trail user and instrumental in the bollard redesign a few years ago. A photo of the area and sketch of where the trees are proposed was included in the packet. Ms. Myers introduced Mr. Fred Straky who would like to donate the trees. Mr. Straky explained there is a biking group called the Paint Creek Trailers who have been biking for 15 years. Their idea is to preserve the natural pathway and not have a lot of artificial landscaping – he would like to plant some trees in the Tienken parking lot area that would not stand out and possibly have a small plaque. He is not particular about the specie of tree, asked for assistance and recommendation from the Commission and is open to any comments or suggestions. The proposed location is not really significant, only that it is in close proximity to a parking area to allow water to be brought in. The Commission feels this is an ideal contribution to the trail, contributing to the natural beauty. Mr. Straky indicated he will be responsible for the initial watering and maintenance and Mr. Becker has offered his assistance in this endeavor. Mr. Straky suggested the Commission develop a policy to accept this type of donation and come up with a list of suggested species. Ms. Myers commented that about 130 ash trees were lost in this section of the trail several years ago. She ran into Mr. Gerry Lee of Rochester Hills on the trail this morning and they are preparing to remove several dozen more dead trees over the next few weeks in this area. This donation couldn't come at a better time. Ms. Myers feels it is appropriate for the Commission to consider a policy for the whole trail because this issue will affect the entire trail. Mr. Straky suggested seedlings could be planted, as planting mature trees require a lot of maintenance. That way there would be something besides scrub trees. Mr. Straky will work with Ms. Myers on this project. Ms. Myers will work with Mr. Lee relative to suggested species that could be planted.

MOTION by Young, supported by Olijnyk, *Moved*, to accept the donation of trees and request that the Trail Manager write a letter to the donator when planting is complete, listing the cost of the trees for use as a tax deduction.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

TRAIL ORDINANCE REVIEW & DISCUSSION: As part of her goals, Ms. Myers reviewed the uniform trailway regulations that were adopted in the early 1980's, and provided a spreadsheet of each community's ordinances highlighting the issues that need to be addressed. There are several items that were never adopted by all four communities – Rochester Hills seems to have the most complete set of ordinances. Ms. Myers spoke with Mr. Makris this afternoon – his concern was to make sure the camping and fire language stays strong as he is worried about homeless people camping on the trail. Ms. Myers is looking for direction on issues not yet included in the ordinance or issues that might not need to be listed in the ordinance. After initial discussion, it was decided this issue should really be turned over to the subcommittee, currently consisting of Ms. Olijnyk, Ms. Myers and Messrs. Blanchard and Phillips. The difference between the "n/a" and "NONE" on the spreadsheet is that the "n/a" items were developed by Rochester Hills and not considered by the other communities back in the 80's, and the "NONE" items indicate where Oakland and Orion Townships did not originally adopt these sections of the ordinance. It was confirmed that the trail ordinance in Rochester Hills and Orion Township also covers the Clinton River Trail and the Polly Ann Trail as well as the Paint Creek Trail. There are also some items in the parks ordinance relating to the trail system. Ms. Myers was thanked for her work on this report. The ordinance review should be turned over to the subcommittee; and it was suggested they review the parks ordinance as well as the trail ordinance to make sure everything is consistent. It was suggested that slingshots be included in the "hunting & weapons" section of the ordinance. There is concern about speed limits on the trail and how to enforce this. This should be discussed by the subcommittee. Besides Ms. Olijnyk, Ms. Myers and Mr.

Blanchard, Commissioners who offered to assist this subcommittee are Messrs. Miller, Becker, Hobbs and Ms. Young, with Ms. Gamage as backup. If necessary, a meeting of this subcommittee will be noticed as a possible quorum. Ms. Myers indicated she will be available to assist. Coordination with Mr. Makris is also necessary after each subcommittee meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT: In addition to the written report, Ms. Myers provided a recognition ceremony for Mr. Becker – acknowledging his 15 years of service to the Commission as his last meeting is tonight. Commissioners thanked Mr. Becker for his service, indicating they will truly miss him. It is hoped that he will continue to volunteer his service to the trail.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: As Mr. Makris is not present, no attorney's report was given. Ms. Myers reported the lawsuit is not finalized. It was suggested that Mr. Makris provide a written report on the status of the lawsuit for the next meeting. It was also suggested that Chairman Blanchard and Ms. Olijnyk meet with Mr. Makris to offer assistance to get this case finalized. In regard to the historical information at Mr. Makris' office that Ms. Myers needs to go through – since most of the boxes are not housed there, it was suggested that we find out where they are stored, make a list of what the Commission wants and offer to help Mr. Makris retrieve the boxes.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Ms. Thomas asked everyone to view the History of Goodison exhibit on display at the Cider Mill through the end of November. Ms. Gamage passed around pictures of the Girl Scout outing/hike on the trail. Mr. Becker reported that one of the art displays was removed to facilitate the ongoing construction – it is stored and will be returned.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION** by Young, supported by Thomas, *Moved*, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: November 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Rochester Council Chambers

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

EDWARD PETERS, Trailways Secretary