

**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 September 20, 2011 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

**Voting Members Present:** Rock Blanchard, Edward Peters, Richard Schultz, Kathy Thomas, Ravi Yalamanchi, Alice Young

**Voting Alternates Present:** None

**Non-Voting Alternates Present:** Nathan Klomp, Paul Miller

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

**Voting Members Absent:** Maryann Whitman

**Alternates Absent:** David Becker, Mark Crane, Marc Edwards, Linda Gamage, Martha Olijnyk, Jeff Phillips

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION** by Schultz, supported by Young, ***Moved***, to approve the September 20, 2011 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes – August 16, 2011 Regular Meeting, approve and file
- b. Treasurers Report – August 2011, receive and file

**MOTION** by Young, supported by Thomas, ***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 \$13,053.29. In addition to regular monthly expenses, this amount includes 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter wages and FICA for the trail manager, 48 hours of mounted patrol, Mr. Makris' 4<sup>th</sup> quarter legal retainer fee and promotional items for the Labor Day Bridge Walk event. The unrestricted fund balance is estimated at \$28,300.

**MOTION** by Young, supported by Peters, ***Moved***, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$13,053.29 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**BIKE PATROL – SEASONAL UPDATE:** Mr. Moutrie, bike patroller for the last six years came forward and gave his report. Overall trail conditions are great – the limestone is an incredible foundation and dog waste is down since the dispensers were placed along the trail. The trail is extremely popular with walking groups – the Tienken parking lot is overflowing at 9:00 a.m. during the week. The trail is an educational opportunity as evidenced by school groups from Bloomfield and Warren. It is suggested that small signs could be placed along the trail identifying plant species. Mr. Moutrie explained he carries a collapsible saw to cut branches and trim the vegetation along the trail, he fills and repairs the brochure boxes and kiosks, fills chipmunk holes, saves turtles and cleans up after the horses. A sign may be needed on Orion Road near Gallagher indicating the way to the trail. Another drinking fountain is suggested along the trail. The biggest complaint is that people don't signal when passing. His favorite part of the job is being a trail ambassador, and his dog, Maggie, is the unofficial trail mascot. Mr. Moutrie loves his job and his trail and thanked the Commission for allowing him the opportunity to work as patroller. The Commission expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Moutrie for his service and his extra hours of patrol time on the trail – he is truly an asset to trail users.

**LABOR DAY BRIDGE WALK & RUN REPORT:** Ms. Myers passed around photographs of the event. It was very successful, despite the rain in the morning. Mr. Moutrie placed all of the mileage signs along the trail. The event included the bridge replacement kick-off fund-raiser with a suggested donation of \$5.00 per family, and raised \$1,001 toward the work. The goal is to raise \$75,000 toward this effort. A story board was developed to show people why we are raising money for the bridge replacement and a lot of people stopped to read about it. Ms. Myers has a few leads on possible grants for this project. There were about 160 on-line registrations. Ms. Golden was thanked for her help in setting up the on-line registration process – this really increased the participation. There were about 300 participants, which is outstanding. Caribou Coffee provided coffee and iced tea both at the start of the walk and at the Tienken Road crossing. Bagels were provided by Bruegger's Bagels. Dinosaur Hill provided children's crafts tables. Thanks to the Commissioners and Friends group who helped and volunteered with this event - they were integral to its success. Great press coverage was realized for this walk. Because this is an officially endorsed event, anyone participating is able to enter next year's lottery to run the Mackinac Bridge event. Ms. Myers was thanked for putting on the successful event.

**MEETING LOCATION CHANGE – November 15, 2011:** Ms. Myers reported the Commission meets at Oakland Township for six months of the year starting in October, but Oakland Township needs their meeting room the night of our November meeting, so the Commission needs to determine where to hold this meeting. The City of Rochester Municipal Building is available the evening of November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION** by Yalamanchi, supported by Young, *Moved*, to hold the November 15<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting at the Rochester Municipal Offices.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**GUNN ROAD SNOWPLOWING DISCUSSION:** Ms. Myers has provided a draft letter to the Road Commission for Oakland County along with a resolution in support of improvements to Gunn Road snow plowing for Commission consideration and/or approval. Mr. Makris has drafted a couple of signs that could be posted on the trail near the bridge warning users of falling snow should the Commission approve placement of the signs. Photographs of the subject location and snow on the trail after plowing were circulated. Ms. Thomas indicated that Ms. Fogler, Oakland Township Supervisor, has not yet been in contact with the Road Commission, and that MMRMA is not able to help the Commission with this situation either. Ms. Myers reported that Mr. Giovanelli contacted Mr. Matis, who is now a County Commissioner, and he

contacted the Road Commission on our behalf. The Road Commission responded with a request that the PCTC contact them in writing and they will try to work with the Commission to find a solution. This would be the first attempt to contact the Road Commission. The letter and resolution is a great idea, and so are the warning signs. Possibly some kind of snow fence could be put up on the Gunn Road railings to prevent the snow from falling down, but that would be up to the Road Commission and Oakland Township. This rural bridge is unique as most other bridges have closed sides to prevent snow from falling after the plows go through. Mr. Makris feels that seasonal warning signs would be helpful as this is a recurring condition in the area and would help with liability – the Road Commission is doing something that creates a danger on trail property and we are aware of it. If the warning signs are approved for placement on the trail, a copy of the sign should be sent to the Road Commission. After discussion, it is the consensus of the Commission to send the letter and resolution to the Road Commission. Mr. Makris has reviewed and approved the documents.

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVEMENTS TO GUNN ROAD SNOW PLOWING**

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, of Oakland County, Michigan, does hereby find as follows:

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, the intergovernmental agency that owns and operates the 8.9 mile developed Paint Creek Trail in Oakland County, Michigan, purchased the former Penn-Central Railroad property utilizing State grants and local funds in 1983 for \$450,000 and was the first Rail-to-Trail in the State of Michigan;

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trail is open for public use and receives over 100,000 users annually, including walkers, joggers, hikers, cross country skiers, nature enthusiasts, equestrians, and cyclists and is a valuable local resource that enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors to southeastern Michigan;

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission has an obligation to ensure the safety of trail users;

WHEREAS, Gunn Road is under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission for Oakland County;

WHEREAS, the plowing of snow on Gunn Road between Adams and Orion Roads in Oakland Township affects the safety of trail users by throwing snow, ice and debris on the Paint Creek Trail;

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission would like to partner with the Road Commission for Oakland County to find a mutually agreeable solution to protect the safety of trail users ;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION OF OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN supports improvements to the Gunn Road overpass on the Paint Creek Trail and/or the development of different plowing techniques to help ensure the safety of trail users, and offers any assistance to help facilitate a solution.

Motion by: Yalamanchi

Supported by: Young

Ayes: Blanchard, Peters, Schultz, Thomas, Yalamanchi, Young

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Nothing in addition to the written report.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Mr. Makris is in the process of gathering the railroad and trailway memorabilia to be reviewed by the Trail Manager. This information could then be displayed in a display booth in the trail office.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** The Curamus Terram 10k was held last weekend and was a great success. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held last weekend in the Village of Lake Orion's downtown area - the road improvements look very nice. The Brooksie Way marathon will take place on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was requested that the results of the archeological report in Orion Township be made available to the Commissioners. The Rural Pearl of a Ride event is scheduled for this Saturday; they are still looking for volunteers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon **MOTION** by Schultz, supported by Young, *Moved*, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEXT MEETING: October 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cider Mill**

Respectfully submitted,

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KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

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EDWARD PETERS, Trailways Secretary