Linn County Trails Association

**Board & *Fifteen in 5* Meeting**

**Monday June 13, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association’s Board of Directors was held on Monday June 13, 2011 at the People’s Unitarian Church. A quorum was not present. (*With no quorum present, the following proposed motions included within these minutes were not adopted. Consensus was reached that a vote by members through electronic mail would suffice for adoption under the LCTA bylaws*.) Those who attended the meeting were the following:

**LCTA Board Members:**

John Wauer (President) Steve Hershner (Vice President) Brad Mullin (Secretary) Keith Sutherland (Treasurer) Mike Heffern Dean Barnum Jim Healy Jeff Keiser Ron McGraw Pat Healy

Mike Wilson Nancy Craig Kesha Kaiser

**Guests:**

Eric Penne Leland Freie Dick Mundy Dan Schuster

**Call to Order:**

John Wauer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Presentation Adam Lindelaub: Long Range Planning Coordinator, Corridor Metropolitian Planning Organization.**

The transportation planning agency for the Cedar Rapids Metro Area is the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Corridor MPO includes the cities of Cedar Rapids, Ely, Hiawatha, Fairfax, Marion, Robins, and portions of unincorporated Linn County. MPOs are entities designated by federal law with the lead responsibility for developing an area’s transportation plans and coordinating the transportation

planning process. All urban areas with a population over 50,000 that receive and spend federal money on transportation improvements are required to have an MPO. The Corridor MPO distributes about $2.5 million in federal transportation funding each year to local projects. About $225,000 is directed to new bike and pedestrian trails.

The Long Range Transportation Plan is the federally‐required long‐range (20+ year) strategy and capital improvement program developed to guide the investment of public funds for the region administered by a MPO. The LRTP must be updated every five years to address the changing transportation needs over time. The LRTP also provides the context from which the region’s annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a short‐range capital improvement program for implementing highway, transit, and bikeway projects, is drawn. *Connections 2040* is the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Cedar Rapids region. It will guide how the region grows and invests transportation dollars over the next 30 years.

Within *Connections 2040* is a Land Use Transportation Vision Plan. The Plan recommends $91 million in trail improvements (Trails Vision Plan) over the next 30 years. Currently, 7 trail projects have received federal funding and are programmed:

Ellis Blvd. Trail Extension: $237,000

Grant Wood Trail Underpass: $600,000

Ely Connection Trail $142,000

Marion Trail $198,500

Boyson Road Trail $706,673

Cedar Valley Nature Trail Reconstruction $642,000

For further information and review of the plan visit: [*www.connections2040.com*](http://www.connections2040.com)

**Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes for the May meeting were distributed electronically. There was one correction: “Geoff Eastburn notified LCTA about using the Skywalk over **1st Street, connecting the Alliant Energy Tower to the First Street Parkade** as a pedestrian bridge for a trail. The 100 foot structure will be removed during the deconstruction of the First Street Parkade. It may used as bridge in Morgan Creek Park. Linn County will brainstorm ideas for placement and storage.” It was mistakenly reported that the skywalk was located over 1st Ave. The amended minutes were approved unanimously

**Treasurer’s Report:**

 Keith Sutherland reported current assets of $169,963. The 990 tax form was made available for review before it was filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

**Old Business:**

**A. Metro Area Trails Map Publication**:

Ron McGraw reported that the new map is coming together. Currently, the committee has raised $4100 for the map. The 2011 Budget allocated $7100 for the map publication, the map committee moved that an additional $1000 be appropriated.

**B. Surplus Pedestrian Skywalk** : The Skywalk over 1st Street, connecting the Alliant Energy Tower to the First Street Parkade is owned by Alliant Energy. The 100 foot structure will be removed during the deconstruction of the First Street Parkade. Alliant Energy has donated the bridge and cover the cost to have it moved to Morgan Creek Park. The Linn County Conservation Department plans the use the bridge to connect the arboretum trail to meadow trail system

**C.Cedar Rapids Comprehensive Trails Plan:** The Infrastructure Committee is scheduled to review the Comprehensive Trails Plan at its Tuesday, June 21st meeting.

**Reports for Standing Committees:**

**A. Public Awareness and Support (Kari Lammer):**

**1.National Trails Day, June 4th, 2011:**

a. The Linn County Trails Association held its annual breakfast along the Cedar River Trail. Stops included McLoud and Sokol Parks. Vicky Evans secured several donations from local area businesses and organizations. The following businesses donated items to the 2011 event:

Wal-Mart: $125 gift card

Hy-Vee: Case of Bananas

Target: Case of Bananas

Quaker Oats: 240 granola bars

Blue Strawberry Coffee Company: 4 dozen muffins

Coffeesmiths: 3 dozen scones

Croissant Du Jour: 6 dozen cookies

Fareway: 96 bottles of water

Brewed Awakenings: 24 mini scones and 24 mini-muffins

Sykora Bakery: 24 kolaches, 24 danishes, 96 cookies.

b. The Linn County Conservation Department held an interpretative hike at the Matsell Bridge Natural Area. The free program was co-sponsored with the Linn County Trails Association and provided a healthy breakfast items at the beginning of the hike.

c. The LCTA partnered with the Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Ambassadors in holding a free bike corral at the Downtown District’s first Downtown Farmer’s Market on June 4th. The Linn County Trails Association provided breakfast items to bike corral users that morning.

d. 2011 National Trails Day Volunteers were:

McLoud Park

Dean and Jan Barnum

Ron and Toni McGraw

Sokol Park

Mike and Ester Wilson

Brad Mullin

Greene Square Park

Leland Freie

Derek Stepanek

Ron Griffith

John Wauer

Steve Hershner

Nancy Craig

 **3. Gems of Hope Bike Ride: May 15th 2011:** As part of the 34th Annual Houby Days Festival, Gems of Hope have organized a family bike ride beginning at the Sokol Park Pavilion. The Linn County Trails Association assisted with a water stop at Jersey’s Pub along the route. Volunteers included Kari Lammer, Tom Peffer, Carol Reasnor and Brad Mullin.

**4. Hoover Nature Trail Celebration: June 3, 2011:** The event was well attended.

**5. Iowa Trails Summit: June 16-18:** Eric Penne reported that LCTA board member, Michelle Barker would be part of a panel discussion.

**B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):**

1. John Wauer reported that City of Cedar Rapids has plans to submit four grants for trail projects.

2. The construction of the new United States Federal Courthouse requires the positioning of balusters around the building. Concern was expressed about how they will obstruct the Cedar River Trail section around the building.

**New Business:**

1. Ely City Park Kiosk:

Ron McGraw reported that the city of Ely has ordered a new kiosk for the Ely City Park but has not been installed. Ron moved that the LCTA approve authorization for $1750 for the kiosk. The 2006 Midwest Tandem Rally held in Cedar Rapids and sponsored by PIGS (Paired Iowans Going Somewhere) donated $3500 to LCTA for amenities in the communities of Ely and Solon.  The remainder of those funds is reserved for amenities in Solon when the Hoover trail reaches Solon. The city of Ely is in the process of supplying water to the park.

2, LCTA T-Shirts: Dean Barnum moved that $450 be authorized for the purchase of additional 60 t-shirts

3. New Board Members: Dick Mundy and Leland Freie were nominated to the LCTA board. Dick Mundy is a strong supporter of trails; he has participated in the paper map planning committee and is a member of CR Bicycle Advisory Committee.  Leland Freie has supported many of the LCTA events such as National Trails Day and Farmers Market bike corral and is a member of Healthy Linn Care Network which brought a grant of $38,000 to Cedar Rapids for bicycle lanes and sharrows and portable bike racks.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Brad Mullin/Secretary

**Addendum: The results from the electronic mail survey:**

1. Approve authorization of $8000 for paper map publication.
15 yes, 1 no,  comment:
I do not think alternative sources of funding have been adequately explored.
2. Approve authorization for $1750 for a kiosk on the Hoover Trail at the Ely Trailhead.
16 yes, 0 no
3. Approve authorization of $450 to purchase additional LCTA t-shirts.
14 yes, 2 no,  comments:
Most of us already have way too many t-shirts already.
I do not see the value in this investment.
4. Election of Dick Mundy and Leland Freie to the LCTA board.
16 yes, 0 no

Linn County Trails Association

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

 July/August 2011

**LCTA Board Meeting**

Monday, July 11th , 7:00pm

People’s Church .

600 3rd. Ave. NE.

**LCTA Board Meeting**

Monday, August 8th , 7:00pm

People’s Church .

600 3rd. Ave. NE.