

# Linn County Trails Association

## Board Meeting

### Monday October 10, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday October 10, 2011 at the United Way of East Central Iowa. A quorum was present. Those who attended the meeting were the following:

#### **LCTA Board Members:**

John Wauer (President) Steve Hershner (Vice President) Keith Sutherland (Treasurer)  
Brad Mullin (Secretary) Dean Barnum Dick Chelikowsky Joe Clark Nancy Craig Vicky Evans  
Leland Freie Jim Healy Pat Healy Jeff Keiser Ron McGraw Kari Lammer Eric Penne Dick Mundy  
Randy Burke Dennis Goemaat Kesha Billings Daniel Gibbins Ron Griffith

#### **Guests:**

Ron Corbett

#### **Call to Order:**

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

#### **Presentation: Ron Corbett, Cedar Rapids Mayor:**

Ron Corbett discussed the importance of trail development funding in current public policy arena. The announcement of the Wellmark Blue Zone project, that promotes a more active lifestyle by making the healthy choice the easiest choice, is a great opportunity to increase funding for area trails. In addition, he discussed his position on the Corridor MPO. In 2010, Mayor Corbett proposed allocating \$3.2- \$3.5 million of MPO funding a year, over 10 years, to trail construction instead of local street projects. One of trends Mayor Corbett would like the MPO advisory committee to adopt involves focusing funding to projects related to other modes of transportation other than roads. Annually, money is allocated for MPO projects, many related to road construction, in the distant future. Mayor Corbett pointed out that these appropriations could fund smaller projects which can be completed in a shorter amount time. The *Connections 2040* trail plan lacks sufficient funding and many projects could be completed in the immediate future. Furthermore, these projects could lead to additional funding and a healthier community.

#### **Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes for the September meeting were distributed electronically. The minutes were approved unanimously

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

In Keith Sutherland's absence, John Wauer reported current assets of \$71,479.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **A. Lindale Trail:**

The railroad has returned a signed copy of the sales contract. HR Green will begin the Phase Environmental Assessment. The closing of the deal could occur in mid-December.

**B. Cedar Rapids Comprehensive Trails Plan:** The Comprehensive Trails Plan is under revision after the Infrastructure Committee meetings. In addition to the current draft plan, the committee suggested the creation of a city staff position, identification of consistent funding resources and development of an agreement with homeowners on right-of-way. The new staff level position would be a full-time position that would take advantage of grant applications, make sure the city is implementing ADA accommodations,

integrate the Sidewalk Master Plan and keep momentum for trail development going forward. Ron Griffith reported that the plan may be presented to the city council in December.

**C. New Meeting Location:** Jim Healy moved that the United Way of East Central Iowa, 317 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. become the permanent meeting location for the board. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Hotel/Motel Tax Application:** Ron McGraw, Mike Wilson and Jim Healy are working on a grant for the upcoming cycle due January 2012. Funding for a kiosk at Greene Square Park will be the request.

### **Reports for Standing Committees:**

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

##### **1. Westside Rotary Seed Collection:**

On October 8, the LCTA, Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department, Indian Creek Nature Center and the Westside Rotary collaborated in the collection of prairie seeds at the Indian Creek Nature Center. Volunteers gathered two large bags of seeds. The seeds will be used to establish prairies at the Prairie Park Fishery.

**2. Trick or Treat on the Trail:** It was decided that the event not be held this year.

**3. 2012 Public Awareness Committee:** Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact Kari. The current committee is planning for 2012.

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

##### **1. City of Cedar Rapids FY13 Proposed Budget:**

A. The preliminary FY13 budget lists the following trail projects:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| CEMAR Phase 1:   | \$400,000 |
| Ellis Trail (Ellis Boulevard to Edgewood Rd.):                   | \$100,000 |
| Lindale Trail (Blairsferry Rd to C AVE.):                        | \$200,000 |
| Sac and Fox Connector (East Post Rd. Bridge to Trail Ridge Rd.): | \$125,000 |
| Miscellaneous Trail Projects:                                    | \$50,000  |

B. Daniel Gibbins is planning to meet with equestrian users of the Sac and Fox trail to address safety concerns in regards to bicyclists and horses.

##### **2. Linn County Conservation Department:**

A. Mary Lundy Memorial Bridge/ Pinicon Ridge Park: Construction continues on the bridge with the first bridge deck placed on October, 10. Completion may be early in December. Construction from the park to Central City is scheduled for April 2012.

B. Cedar Valley Nature Trail: The project is scheduled for letting on Dec. 20. Construction would occur from spring 2012 to mid-summer 2012 depending on the weather. The county has submitted a State Recreational Trails Program Grant application for the next phase from Schultz Rd. to Center Point.

C. Hoover Nature Trail: LCTA, Linn County and Johnson County plan to meet and discuss the development of the trail south of Ely into Johnson County. Reconstruction of the Kozzie culvert is complete.

##### **3. Kesha Billings: City of Marion:**

Kesha reported the following progress in Marion:

1. Krumboltz trail/CEMAR: Preliminary work has begun on the section from Thomas Park to the Highway 100. The project should be bid in the fall.

2. Lindale Trail: The Marion City Council has approved the project constructing a section of the trail from east of Lindale Ave down to the Boyson Trail. This project may be bid concurrently with the Krumholz/CEMAR project which should occur in the fall.

3. Plans have been announced for the construction of a trail on South 11<sup>th</sup> St. from downtown to East Post Road.

3. 35<sup>th</sup> St Roundabout/trails are open for use.

**C. Government Support (Ron McGraw):**

1. Ron McGraw has accepted the position of chairperson of the committee.

2. The organization of trail supporters to write letters of support for trails to the Cedar Rapids Gazette and local appointed/elected officials was discussed

3. The city held a 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East Improvements Public Meeting. . There was little discussion on trail development. A draft concept public meeting is scheduled for November 2011. The LCTA encourages input. For more information consult: [www.cr1stavenueeast.com](http://www.cr1stavenueeast.com).

**C. Trails Safety and Amenities:**

Jeff Keiser has accepted the position of chairperson of the committee.

**New Business:**

**1.2012 Board Membership:** Jim Healy proposed that the attached board member slate be voted on at the November meeting.

**2. Bike Rack Installation:** Cedar Rapids has 6-8 inverted “U” bike racks available for installation. They are taking recommendations for areas/businesses. Contact any John Wauer with suggestions.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Brad Mullin/Secretary



## Linn County Trails Association

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November/December 2011



**LCTA Annual Board Meeting**

Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

Location: United Way of East Central Iowa

317 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE

Program: Steve Swenson, Resources Manager, Linn County Conservation: History of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail and trail maintenance.

**LCTA Board Meeting**

December: TBD