

Linn County Trails Association

Board Meeting

Monday March 14, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on March 14, 2016 at the Shores Event Center. A quorum was present. Those who attended the meeting were the following:

LCTA Board Members:

Paul Fiegen (President) Brad Mullin (Secretary) Sarah Barber Dean Barnum Vicky Evans Diane Handler Steve Hershner Ron McGraw Dick Mundy Gary Palmer Larry Scott Kirschen Seah John Wauer Kesha Billings Dan Biechler Dennis Goemaat

Guests:

Andrea Stoller Mike Wilson Mark Nelson

Call to Order:

President, Paul Fiegen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the February board meeting were distributed electronically. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$120,837.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Public Awareness and Support (Paul Fiegen)

1. **New Area Trail Guide:** The development of the map is a partnership between the LCTA, CMPO, City of Cedar Rapids, City of Marion and Linn County. The group has reviewed front cover options.
2. **Ride Walk Play Event:** Gary Palmer informed the group of interest to conduct the event again this year. The event may be part of the Freedom Festival with a date of Thursday, June 23 from 5-8pm. LCTA will provide the insurance coverage for the event.
3. **Grant Wood Trails of Linn County(CMPO):** The next Grant Wood Trails of Linn County meeting (CMPO) is Tuesday, April 12th, at 6pm until 7pm. The meeting location is at the Jean Oxley Public Service Center at 935 2nd Street SW, Cedar Rapids
4. **Tour de Trees:** Sunday April 17th, 1 to 4 pm. Pedal with Trees Forever on a 13-mile bicycle ride! The ride begins at Another Road Brewing (located at 631 9th Street in Marion). It will head southwest and stop at a few tree-related points of interest. Bicyclists will see a recent planting along 22nd Street in Marion, volunteer projects at the Indian Creek Nature Center and the beautiful mature trees along the Sac and Fox Trail, the Prairie Park Fishery and more. The ride ends at the Lion Bridge Brewing Company (located at 59 16th Avenue SW in Cedar Rapids).
5. **Marion City Showcase:** Saturday, April 23rd, Marion City Square Park. City staff will be on hand to visit with residents and share information about upcoming projects. Kesha Billings will lead an 8 mile bicycle ride around the city beginning at 1pm.
6. **Transamerica Health Fair:** April 13th and April 14th, 10:30 to 1:30pm. Volunteers are needed, anyone interested should contact Gary Palmer.

7. LCTA/HBA Joint Rides:

a. Saturday, April 16th, 9am. Ride will begin the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Boyson Rd. Trailhead to Lafayette and back.

b. Saturday, May 21st, 8:30 am. Ride will begin at Sokol Park to Ely City Park and back.

B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. **Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO)**: Steve Hershner discussed the CMPO's call for projects for \$4.2 million in funds for the fiscal year 2020 .

a. **Marion: 10th Ave Trail** from 35th St. to the Wal-Mart entrance (Eagle View Dr.). Ten foot paths on both the north and south sides of the 10th Ave.

b. **Linn County: Highway 100 Trail- Phase 2B**: Construction of a trail along 42nd St. westward from Edgewood Rd. The trail would proceed north on the west side of Xavier High School. The trail would pass near the Rock Island Preserve and connect to the new Highway 100 construction.

c. **Linn County : Seminole Valley Trail**: The creation of a trail on the north side of the Cedar River from the Edgewood Rd. bridge to Seminole Valley Park. The project includes bridges of the Union Pacific Railroad and Ushers Creek.

d. **Cedar Rapids: Lindale Trail Extension**: Construction of a trail west of Council St. to connect to the Cedar River Trail at Center Point Rd (1.7 mile). The proposed plans include an underpass of Blairs Ferry Rd. Additional funding was secured as the CMPO voted to defund the Dry Creek Trail: Phase One project and apply to funds to the Lindale Trail project.

2. Marion:

a. **Grant Wood Trail Extension** : With construction estimates higher than anticipated, the project is under review to make changes and/or find additional funding. Kesha Billing submitted a request of \$75,000 from the LCTA to fund the paving of half a mile of trail from the Squaw Creek Bridge to the Underpass of Highway 13. Construction may begin in 2017 depending on funding.

b. **Lindale Trail**: The City of Marion will install rapid flashing beacons at the intersection of Lindale Trail and Lindale Dr. The project will commence on April 11th and completed in 10 working days.

3. Future Trail Development Project Funding:

John Wauer discussed the use of LCTA funds for future trail development. John advocates LCTA should use available funds to encourage development and improvement of trails in a timely manner. In that process LCTA may provide matching funds, up to 10-20%, for projects that may otherwise be delayed, and possibly 100% for small projects that are important, such as safety issues, that may not get government funding for some time. He proposed that future projects must be within LCTA budget and not require separate fund raising as with a capital campaign. Projects must be shovel ready and construction will start within the year. The objective is to speed up trail development! The County has twice asked LCTA for funds and both times I think the project schedules were quickly completed because of LCTA's response.

One way to assemble a list of potential projects that meet these requirements is to ask the jurisdictions that are responsible for building and maintaining the projects. Guidelines must be clearly stated with no guarantees that a project will be accepted or funded at the requested level. The jurisdictions have a better knowledge of the financial issues that are preventing a project from moving forward so that LCTA can expedite. John suggested projects as potential LCTA funding. One project would involve the installation of rapid flashing pedestrian beacons at the intersection of Boyson Rd and the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

B.Trail Operations and Safety :

1. **Cedar Valley Nature Trail:** A section of trail is closed north of Schultz Rd.
2. **Cedar River Trail:** In December 2015, the Cedar River Trail south of Tait Cummins Park was closed due to construction associated with the Prairie Creek Sanitary Sewer Reconstruction project. As part of flood alleviation, the sewer is being replaced from J St. to the Cedar River. A section of Cedar River Trail north of the Union Pacific Railroad Overpass was temporarily removed. Dick Mundy shared some pictures of the construction. The trail is open for use.

New Business:

1. **New Meeting Location:** Steve Hershner volunteered to research possible locations. Steve recommended that the new meeting location at the Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building. It is located at 1111 Shaver Rd. NE. The April board meeting will occur at the Shores Events Center, with the May meeting held at the Water Administration Building.
2. **Trail Counters:** A new webpage for trail count reporting was created:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1sW8FDZE67TW8EAawyYZ-T99DpqVwdKCuO-FKV8uidao/viewform>. QR codes were placed on counters to facilitate easy use of the new form.
3. **Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWILL):** Senator Liz Mathis will be holding a Listening Post event this Saturday, March 26th at 10:00am-11:30am at the Ely Community Center. This would be a great opportunity to discuss the importance of trail funding with our elected officials. The Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWILL) has proposed a continual method to support trails with 10% of the funds going toward trails.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15



Linn County Trails Association CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LCTA Board Meetings

LCTA Board Meeting
Monday, April 11th , 7:00pm
Location: Shores Event Center
700 16th St NE L100

Monday, May 9th, 7:00pm
Location: Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building
1111 Shaver Rd. NE.