

Linn County Trails Association

Board & Fifteen in 5 Meeting

Monday November 8, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday November 8, 2010 at the People's Unitarian Church. A quorum was present and included the following:

LCTA Board Members:

Geoff Eastburn (President) John Wauer (Vice President) Brad Mullin (Secretary)
Keith Sutherland (Treasurer) Dean Barnum Dick Chelikowsky Jim Healy Pat Healy Vicky Evans
John Goodlove Steve Hershner Mike Heffern Jeff Keiser Tom Pepper Mike Wilson
Randy Burke Ron McGraw

Guests:

Terri Thayer Bob Neilly

Call to Order:

Geoff Eastburn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Program: Terri Thayer and Bob Neilly: "All Trails Lead To Marion: Imagine 8 Committee"

"All Trails Lead Marion" is a citizens committee that will help raise funds, build awareness and advise the Marion Parks Department, and Linn County Trails Association, in the design and routing of a trails and green space along the central corridor in Marion. This initiative will also work toward connecting and expanding existing trails to adjacent trail networks and communities as well as improvements to existing trails.

In April 2010, the city of Marion received a \$2,500 Rockwell Collins Green Communities grant for Phase I of All Trails Lead to Marion project. In addition, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs awarded an Iowa Great Places grant of \$25, 000 to the city of Marion for the construction of a trail along the right-of-way of an abandoned railroad line to allow pedestrian and bicycle usage between Marion and Cedar Rapids. The grants were matched with local option sales tax funds from the city of Marion. The initial construction is on the western edge of Marion from Lindale Dr. to C Ave. The paving of the Marion section is planned for the spring of 2011. A ¼ mile of the trail is located within Cedar Rapids with the Chicago Railroad still owning a small parcel. The committee has met with Ron Corbett and Julie Ackerman about purchasing the property and paving the section. The new trail will eventually connect with a system of trails throughout Marion.

Initial goals for the committee consist of the following:

1. Meet with the City Manager (Lon Pluckhahn) or Planner(Tom Treharne). How can this committee help, enhance, or speed up the process of implementing this trail. The city has plans and funding in place.
2. Can we add some closed loops to this trail that will run right by the businesses on 7th and might incorporate the historic housing district on 8th Ave.
3. Meet with Linn County Trails Association, Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation, Linn County Conservation department to increase awareness of plans /funding in place for regional area.
4. Identify trail portions/projects which are in need of funding.

- Identify applicable grants and submit applications
- Pursue fund raising opportunities jointly with other organizations, such as LCTA, etc.

5. Propose various levels of greenscape/streetscape design along trails/walkways which individuals can donate funds in honor of and/or in memory of individuals.

6. Identify educational opportunities to promote safety/wellness in the use of our recreational trails/bike lanes/walkways. Utilize educational resources already developed by various groups: Iowa Dept of Transportation, Iowa Bicycle Coalition, etc.

7. Meet with nearby communities to learn how they developed their trail infrastructure. For example, Waterloo/Cedar Falls, North Liberty, Iowa City & Coralville.

8. Propose Adopt a Trail, similar to Adopt a Highway to enhance community involvement by service organizations/individuals in participating in trail/walkways. Similar to Urbandale, IA: <http://www.urbandale.org/adoptatrail.cfm>

The Committee's Priorities were outlined as follows :

1. Design Study of Corridor Railway Trail now that Plan D from the Marion Central Corridor Master Plan study completed by Olsson Associates has been recommended and approved by Mayor/City Council. Areas of concern along the trail are two overpasses and one bridge span. Initial proposal was part of the Marion Central Corridor Redevelopment Area Project which included:

- A new, 10-foot wide, multi-purpose trail connecting several community landmarks, as well as serving as a means of transportation connecting to surrounding communities and existing trails. The City of Marion currently owns the abandoned rail-corridor just south of 7th Avenue. At some points, the rail corridor is nearly 180 feet wide. This amount of space provides limitless potential for development, a recreation trail, or extension of 6th Avenue. Recent engineering surveys concluded that the old railroad bridge over 7th Ave. is structurally unsound for use as a trail bridge. The overpass over 7th St. should be removed during redevelopment and will not be part of any future trail design. The railroad overpass over the Boyson Trail was determined sound for travel and may be incorporated in future trail designs.

2. Completion of CeMar trail within Marion city limits to join the already funded CEMAR trail from Cedar Lake to Marion city limits. In 2010, a quit claim deed was sold to the city of Marion by Menards Inc. for \$1 to be used for a trail section south of town. Construction of the first bridge over Indian Creek will occur in 2011.

3. Communication to the community of existing trails, developing trails and safety/education opportunities on transportation. Utilize current websites to bring together existing links to resources locally/regionally and fund raising events. For further information visit: <http://www.orgsites.com/ia/mariontrails/>

Approval of the Minutes:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$124,644. A budget for FY11 was submitted for approval. After discussion, a consensus was reached that category of Map expenses be increased to \$8,000 and Event/Map sponsorships increased to \$9,000. Keith moved for approval of the amended FY11 budget and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A. Nominating Committee: The 2010 nominating committee consisted of Tom Peffer, Jim Healy, and Jon Bogert. The 2011-13 elected slate of officers is as follows:

President: John Wauer

Vice President: Steve Hershner

Secretary: Brad Mullin

Treasurer: Keith Sutherland

In addition, the proposed list of the 2011-12 Board of Directors was presented. Tom Peffer moved for election of the slate of officers and board of directors. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Capital Campaign Update (Steve Hershner):

1. No significant changes were reported. The campaign has raised just over \$80,000. Randy Burke reported that the engineer is to be hired in the spring 2011 with the start of construction in the fall 2011.

B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. Sac and Fox Trail: The construction of the East Post Road Bridge is completed. The paving of the approaches from the trail to the bridge should be finished by the end of November.

2. Hoover Trail: The paving of the trail is scheduled for mid-November with completion shortly after.

3. CEMAR Trail: The second phase of the project is nearly completed.

C. Public Awareness and Support (Kari Lammer):

Brad Mullin reported on the following events:

1. Haunted Trail: On Sunday, October 31st, about 30 kids ventured down the Boyson Trail. A candy station, sponsored by LAMBA, leaf coloring station, and mystery station were featured along the trail. The Marion Public Library read ghost stories to participants.

2. Trail clean-up: November 6th: The clean-up had about 20 volunteers. The event was organized with the city of Cedar Rapids. Starting at 4 different trail heads, almost 20 miles of trails were cleaned. In total, almost 30 bags of trash were collected by volunteers.

3. Linn County Trails Association Annual Reception: Tuesday, December 7th at the Benz Beverage Depot from 5:30-7:30. More details will be made available on the website.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Brad Mullin/Secretary



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December/January 2010



LCTA Annual Reception

Tuesday December 7th, 5:30pm

Location: Benz Beverage Depot

501 7th Ave SE,

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, January 10th, 7:00pm

People's Church

700 3rd. Ave. NE.