

Linn County Trails Association

Board & Fifteen in 5 Meeting

Monday February 14, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday February 14, 2011 at the People's Unitarian Church. A quorum was present and included the following:

LCTA Board Members:

John Wauer (President) Brad Mullin (Secretary) Steve Hershner (Vice President)
Keith Sutherland (Treasurer) Dean Barnum Jon Bogert Jim Healy Pat Healy Vicky Evans
Jeff Keiser Mike Wilson Nancy Craig Tom Peffer Kari Lammer

Guests:

Kesha Kaiser Leland Friere Eric Penne Lynn Carlson

Call to Order:

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

Presentation: Jon Bogert, Anderson-Bogert Engineers, on CEMAR Trail Update

The CEMAR trail project will connect the Cedar River Trail with Hanna Park (Marion). Sixty percent of the project is within the city limits of Cedar Rapids and forty percent within the Marion city limits.

City of Cedar Rapids section:

Phase 1: The first phase connects the Cedar Lake Loop of the Cedar River Trail with 20th St. N.E. This portion is partially funded with design work in progress. Preliminary design includes a trail crossing at the existing H Ave. railroad crossing along with a street widening of H Ave. N.E. The addition of six foot bike lanes and wide sidewalks for pedestrians will be part of the street reconstruction. This phase will also require improvements to driveways of local business. In addition, the city remains in negotiations with the Terex Corporation to obtain a trail easement. The process has been hampered by the Terex's plant closing in 2009 and the property being for sale. The trail will traverse through Daniels Park and rejoin the old railroad right-of-way to 20th St. Construction of some of this phase should begin in 2011.

Phase 2: The second phase follows the old railroad right-of-way from 20th St. to 29th St. This phase is near completion with landscaping and plantings planned for 2011 to accommodate adjacent property owners. In addition, a trailhead and parking area are planned for construction in 2011 near 29th St.

Phase 3: The final phase will connect the trailhead at 29th St. with the Marion City limits. Currently, there is no funding for the project. Acquisitions of right-of-way are one obstacle associated with this phase as the trail will have to border Mt. Calvary cemetery and other local businesses. The second issue with this phase is the crossing of 1st Ave. Several alignment studies were completed in the past involving an overpass, underpass and at-grade crossing of the trail at 1st Ave. There is no time line on the phase's initial construction.

City of Marion section:

In 2010, Marion began construction of the first phase of its trail from Hanna Park to Indian Creek near Menards. Last year, an easement was negotiated with Menards. The city has obtained a REAP grant for a bridge over Indian Creek, but the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has voiced concern about the bridge causing flooding in the future. The city has agreed to construct a new wetland at Squaw Creek Park to ease concerns. The second phase of the trail project will involve an underpass of Highway 100 at the road's bridge over Indian Creek. Right-of-way acquisitions have been difficult for this section. Initial design will have the trail follow the sanitary sewer near the Faulkes Woods Park. A sanitary sewer improvement

project is scheduled for the next few years and the exact route may depend on the reconstruction. Several private property owners are reluctant to allow trail easements on their property. Completion of the second phase may be put on hold for several years.

Approval of the Minutes:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$159,802.

Old Business:

A. LCTA Website:

1. The website is linked with a map, provided by Gina Weaver (City of Cedar Rapids), of the bike racks in metro area.
2. A map of groomed cross country ski trails at Morgan Creek and Wickiup Hill Learning Center have been added to trail map.

B. John urged board members to search for candidates for the LCTA historian and trail counter manger, as well as helping with Contributor Development.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. 2011 City of Cedar Rapids Projects: Recently, John Wauer attended a meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Ron Griffith, City of Cedar Rapids, report the following 2011 projects.

- a. 74th Street N.E. from Council St. to C Ave N.E: Bike lane addition.
- b. C Ave. from 74th Street to East Main St. (Robins): Addition of wide shoulders for cyclists.
- c. 33rd Ave from 18th St. S.W. to Edgewood Rd: Extension of the existing sharrows along 33rd Ave.

2. Lindale Ave. to C Ave trail project: The city of Marion has planned to pave its portion in 2011. Land acquisition is necessary for completion of the project within the city limits of Cedar Rapids.

3. Pinicon Park-Central City Trail and Mary Lundby Memorial Bridge: Tom Pepper reported that Shive-Hattery was chosen to begin design work on the project. The initial design was submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for approval.

C. Public Awareness and Support (Kari Lammer):

1. The committee arranged for the purchase of give-a-ways (magnets, lip balm, sunscreen) with the LCTA logo.

2. In March, *Hoopla Magazine* will publish a story on the LCTA.

3. LCTA will partner with the Bicycle Advisory Committee will an entry into the SAPADAPASO's parade on Thursday, March 17th. Details will be on the LCTA website. Details: Meet at Coopacabana Bar (529 4th Avenue and 6th Street SE) at 12:45 pm. Line up in front of Coopacabana between 12:50 pm and 1:00 pm. Parade Entry number 36

4. The committee has begun plans to hold a legislative forum about trail-related issues in 2011.

5. The East Central United Way Day of Caring is Thursday, May 12th. The committee will sponsor an event and asked for ideas.

6. Alliant Energy's *Dig Your District* campaign is requesting ideas for areas in need of tree plantings. Suggestions were asked to be sent to Nancy Craig or submitted on alliantenergy.com.

D. Government Support:

1. John Wauer attended the Cedar Rapids Bicycle Advisory Committee held last month. The Cedar Rapids Police Department reported that the bike patrol logged 673 hours in 2010. There were 59 shifts of 1-2 officers. Activities of the patrol included St. Patrick's Day patrol, Farmer's Market patrol, random patrol of flood zones and 4 bike trains with the Cedar Rapids Bicycle Advisory Committee.

New Business

- A. 2011 Metro Area Trail Maps: Solicitations for map sponsorships have begun. The goal is to raise \$9000 towards the publication of the maps.
- B. Complete Streets Policy-House Bill 59: A recent bill introduced in the House of the Iowa General Assembly outlined an act providing for the adoption and implementation of complete streets policies applicable to certain highway projects. The bill establishes design guidelines to accommodate all users including bicycles and pedestrians. Complete Streets is a concept promoted by the National Complete Streets Coalition (www.completestreets.org). There was discussion whether the guidelines should be mandatory for all cities and counties. Interested individuals were directed to the following website: <http://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&hbill=HF59>
- C. Healthy Linn County Care Network: The Healthy Linn County Care Network goal is to reduce obesity in Linn County. The organization has funding for projects related to their goal. Applications for grants are due April 1, 2011. Ideas for trail-related projects should be directed to Ron Griffith of the City of Cedar Rapids. <http://www.healthylinn.com>

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Brad Mullin/Secretary



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March/April 2011



LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, March 14th, 7:00pm

People's Church
600 3rd. Ave. NE.

Tentative speaker: Jeff Pomeranz, Cedar Rapids City Manager.

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, April 16th, 7:00pm

People's Church
600 3rd. Ave. NE.