

Linn County Trails Association

Board & Fifteen in 5 Meeting

Monday April 18, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday April 18, 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) Michelle Barker Dean Barnum Vicky Evans Jeff Keiser Mike Wilson
Nancy Craig Tom Pepper Jim Healy Ron McGraw Joe Clark Kesha Kaiser

Guests

Eric Penne Steve Schuster

Call to Order:

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

Presentation: Jeff Pomeranz, Cedar Rapids City Manager:

Before becoming Cedar Rapids city manager, Jeff Pomeranz served for twelve years as West Des Moines city manager. In 2010, the city of West Des Moines has more than 35 miles of biking and walking trails. As West Des Moines city manager, Jeff dealt with a variety of issues relating to the construction and maintenance of its trail system. During his tenure, Jeff advocated trails as a vital part of the community and an important aspect of quality of life. Currently, the city of Cedar Rapids has about 30 miles of trails with an estimated value of \$20 million dollars. Most of components of the trail system are over ten years old; therefore maintenance of the trail system is becoming a priority for the city. It is estimated that maintenance for one mile of trail costs between \$16,000 and \$17,000 per year.

In 2009, the city of Cedar Rapids began developing a Comprehensive Trail Plan. The city hired Shive-Hattery Inc. to create a plan. It addresses, in detail, both transportation and recreational routes for trails and pedestrian and bike travel throughout the city. The plan outlines construction priorities and detail preferred construction and maintenance methods. In addition, the Cedar Rapids Park and Recreation Department completed its Master Plan in April 2010. This plan stressed the importance of trails as a link to regional systems and neighborhoods to the Riverfront, the Greenway and the Downtown core while also connecting signature parks for local, recreational opportunities. After several drafts and public input meetings, the Comprehensive Trail Plan was finalized in June of 2010. It may be approved by the city council in June 2011.

Jeff provided a summary of the process involved in trail development within the city government. The majority of the trail projects in the past ten years have received funding from the federal and local agencies. However, he stressed the decline in funding resources for trail-related projects. The comprehensive trails plan will have targets and establish priorities for available funds. The Cedar River Trail provides a solid north-south route for trail users. However, the development of a East-West route was suggested by attendees. Structuring priorities based on places people would like to go or where people work was also recommended. If passed, he suggested that the local option tax vote on May 3 could provide some additional funds in the future.

Before a funded trail-related construction project can be approved by the Cedar Rapids City Council, it must first pass out of the Council's Infrastructure Committee. The purpose of the Infrastructure Committee

is to enable City Council to discuss and evaluate in greater detail issues that directly impact the quality and sustainability of the City's infrastructure. Areas of focus for this committee are trails, sidewalks, assessment policies, the annual Capital Improvements Projects process, street construction, Public Works services, Parks and Recreation services, and municipal utilities. The Infrastructure Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 4:00 pm. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the City website. The meetings are open to the public. They are opportunities for citizens to come forward and address elected officials. Chuck Swore is the committee chair. Other members are Kris Gulick and Tom Podzimek. Mayor Ron Corbett is an ex-officio member of all Council Committees. More information: www.cedar-rapids.org/city-council/citycouncilcommittees

A summary of completed (*or in progress*) trail- related projects for 2010 was summarized as follows: Edgewood Road viaduct over the Union Pacific Railroad.

C Ave. N.E: from Boyson Rd. to 74th St. N.E.

CEMAR Trail: Phase Two, 20th N.E. to 29th St. NE

Sac and Fox trail flood repair

3rd Street from 14th Ave to 13th Ave

In the planning stage are the following projects:

Ellis Trail: from Manhattan Park to Edgewood Rd.

Edgewood Trail: from Ellis Blvd. to O Ave.

Wiley/Westdale Bike Way

Cedar River Trail Underpass of the CRANDIC railroad bridge.

The following project were list as being in the Design Phase (*under design*):

33rd Ave: From Royal Drive to Edgewood Rd.

3rd St. from 13th Ave. to 8 Ave.

CEMAR Trail: Phase I

Edgewood Rd from 37th Ave S.W. to 33rd Ave. S.W.

C Ave. from 74th Street N.E. to East Main St. (Robins)

74th St. N.E.: from Council St. N.E. to C Ave. N.E.

As for trail development in Cedar Rapids, the government has a "team" approach.

Parks and Recreation Department: Routine maintenance: trash removal, mowing, graffiti removal, bench refurbishment, etc.,

Engineering Department: Planning and design of trail projects, design of signage and reconstruction of deteriorated trail sections and implement "complete street" concepts into city projects.

Public Works Department: Provide the necessary labor and equipment for trail maintenance projects, resurfacing, painting pavement markings.

It was suggested that the city implement an Adopt-A-Trail program similar to those of Urbandale and Clive, IA to reduce maintenance costs.

Jeff Pomeranz stressed the importance of a strong advocacy groups, such as the Linn County Trails Association. He also encouraged individuals to talk to their council representatives. As in the case of West Des Moines, committed city staff members are equally important to success of trail development in a community. The Bicycle Advisory Committee is a liaison between advocacy groups and city officials. One of the issues discussed was the better education of motorists in respect to bicyclists on roads by the city and various groups. Throughout his presentation, Jeff stressed trails as a vital part of the community and an important aspect of quality of life.

Approval of the Minutes:

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

Treasurer's Report:

In Keith Sutherland's absence, John Wauer reported current assets of \$158,893.

Old Business:

- A. **The East Central United Way Day of Caring** :The East Central United Way Day of Caring is Thursday, May 12th. Lindsay Dick is working on ideas for volunteers. Trail clean-up, updating kiosks, re-staining benches and signs are possible projects.
- B. **Trees Forever/ Alliant's Dig Your District**: A grant has been submitted for planting trees along the Cedar River Trail near Tait Cummins Park.
- C. **Cedar Rapids Downtown District Bike Rack Project**: The Downtown District of Cedar Rapids is organizing with local businesses to purchase and install new bike racks throughout the downtown area.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Public Awareness and Support (Kari Lammer):

1. 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 is 36
2. The committee has begun plans for Bike to Work Week Activities.
3. The Cedar Rapids Bicycle Advisory Committee submitted a grant application to the Healthy Linn County Care Network. The application included funding for Share the Road Signs, pavement markings, permanent bike racks and portable bike racks.

A. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. Pinicon Park-Central City Trail and Mary Lundby Memorial Bridge: Randy Burke reported the initial design has been approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
2. Cedar Valley Nature Trail: The County has done some preliminary trimming and pruning. The construction contract should be let in August and construction should begin in the fall of this year.
3. Grant Wood Trail: A concept statement has been resubmitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation with the trail going straight under Highway 13. Actual construction may begin in 2012, as a detour of Highway 13 would involve going through an area under construction in Marion during 2011.
4. Hoover Nature Trail: A discussion was held regarding a formal ribbon cutting for the new section in May.

New Business

1. Squaw Creek Mountain Bike Trail: The Linn Area Mountain Bike Association plans to begin construction of one-mile of new a singletrack mountain bike trail on Saturday, March 26th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Brad Mullin/Secretary



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April/May 2011



LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, April 11th , 7:00pm

People's Church

600 3rd. Ave. NE.

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, May 9th , 7:00pm

People's Church

600 3rd. Ave. NE.