

Linn County Trails Association

Board Meeting

Monday August 8, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday August 8th, 2011 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. A quorum was not present. Those who attended the meeting were the following:

LCTA Board Members:

John Wauer (President) Steve Hershner (Vice President) Brad Mullin (Secretary) Michelle Barker
Dean Barnum Joe Clark Vicky Evans Jim Healy Ron McGraw Pat Healy Kari Lammer Tom Pepper
Mike Wilson Dick Mundy Dan Biechler Randy Burke Dennis Goemaat

Guests:

Eric Penne Ken Barker Rob Johnson Martin Smith

Call to Order:

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

Presentation Michelle Barker: Dirt Trails: Mountain Biking in the Metro Area

Michelle Barker is an avid mountain biker. Currently, she is a board member of both Linn Area Mountain Biking Association (LAMBA) and the Linn County Trails Association. She has presented on the *Women of Iowa Dirt* panel during the 2010 Iowa Trails Summit and presented at the 2011 Summit as well. Michelle advocates for women's mountain biking through clinics, rides and demonstration days. She has participated in two International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Trail Care Crew trainings.

The LAMBA is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to creating and maintaining sustainable mountain biking trails in the Linn County area. In 2008, the group established single track mountain bike trails at Beverly Park on the south-west side of Cedar Rapids. The re-establishment of the Burr Oak savannah is also part of the project. LAMBA has planted new Burr Oak trees and every year it works to remove invasive species in the park. The trails are used for snowshoeing, running events, biking demonstration days and geocaching events. In 2011, the metro area has just over 6 miles of established mountain bike trails. Areas with 20 or more miles are considered a destination for mountain bike trail users and have saw an economic impact from trail development.

Single track mountain bike trails offer users a close connection with nature. Trails are often a narrow dirt surface, primarily one directional and use (or mimic) the natural landscape (go around trees and rocks). One of the advantages of dirt trails are their relatively low cost in terms of construction and maintenance. It is estimated that one mile of paved trail cost around \$250, 000 while a mile of dirt trail costs around \$11,000. The Beverly Park trails were constructed with volunteer hours at virtually no cost. In terms of land acquisition, singletrack trails can be constructed in a relatively small area. Small trail systems can be a great "gateway" trail for younger riders or those new to mountain biking. The LAMBA manages the maintenance of the Beverly Park trails. Singletrack trails are designed to be sustainable so they are not repaired on a regular basis and debris removal is the only routine maintenance.

In addition to Beverly Park, LAMBA has established a mountain bike trail at Squaw Creek. One of the obstacles to area trail development is obtaining land access for trail building. Other users, motorized vehicles (ATVs and dirt bikes) and equestrians often use the same areas and can damage the trail surface. These problems may solved by signage and through education. Support from the LCTA could be beneficial

in gaining more access for trail development in Linn County. Trail constructions around the CVNT Boyson Rd. Trailhead and along the McCloud Run stream were discussed as possible opportunities for “gateway” trails.

Approval of the Minutes:

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

Treasurer’s Report:

In Keith Sutherland’s absence, John Wauer reported current assets of \$171,353.

Old Business:

A. Metro Area Trails Map Publication:

The Linn County Trails Association has printed 60,000 maps for distribution. The bulk of the maps are stored in the basement of the Cherry Building. Ron McGraw has several boxes of maps for those who need maps for filling trail map boxes.

B. Cedar Rapids Comprehensive Trails Plan: The Infrastructure Committee is scheduled to review the Comprehensive Trails Plan in September. A presentation to the Home Builder’s Association raised some questions about trail maintenance and cost.

C. New Meeting Location: The next meeting will take place at the new People’s Church location at 4980 Gordon Ave. NW. Another possible location may be the United Way of East Central Iowa.

D. Hotel/Motel Tax Application: Ron McGraw, Mike Wilson and Jim Healy are working on a grant for the upcoming cycle. Funding for a kiosk at Greene Square Park is the possible request. Initial cost estimates range from \$5,000-\$10,000 dollars

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Public Awareness and Support (Kari Lammer):

1. New Bohemia Half-Marathon, Sept. 4th

The LCTA will staff a water stop at the Cole Street Parking lot on the Sac and Fox Trail. If you would like to volunteer, contact Kari Lammer.

2. 2011 Mayors’ Ride :The ride will be Monday, September 5th. Kari also has posters available for distribution. Volunteers are needed. Contact Kari to volunteer or posters.

3. Downtown Farmer’s Market: Volunteers are needed for Aug 20th, Sept. 3rd and Sept. 17th markets for the BAC bicycle corral and to distributes maps. During the first five markets, the LCTA has received \$228 in donations and sold \$180 in t-shirts. Currently, the e-mail distribution list has 510 members with several new addresses from the markets.

4. Moving-Planet.org Bike Ride: The group advocates the reduction of fossil fuel usage. The ride will commence at 1pm at Tait Cummins Park on Saturday, September 24, 2011. For further details visit: moving-planet.org.

5. CVNT Check Presentation: Pave the Trail matching funds check presentation to Linn County Conservation Commission will be held August 22nd, at 4pm at the CVNT Boyson Road Trailhead.

B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1, Cedar Valley Nature Trail: Evansdale Bridge:

Dan Biechler reported that the CVNT bridge over the Cedar River is now open for use. A grand opening celebration was held on July 31st

2. **Cedar Valley Nature Trail Paving**: The project has completed its design phase and is scheduled for a Iowa Department of Transportation bid letting in November 2011. Paving will begin in early 2012. The LCCD has reached an agreement with a landowner to eliminate the southernmost tunnel near Lafayette. The removal of the tunnel solves some drainage problems and saves \$50,000 from the project. The county has applied for a State Recreation Trails grant for trail reconstruction and paving for the remaining 3 miles to Center Point.

3. **Mary Lundy Memorial Bridge/ Pinicon Ridge Park**: Construction has begun on the bridge. Completion could be early in 2012. A trail connecting the Pinicon Ridge Park and Central City has started construction with some vegetation clearing.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Brad Mullin/Secretary



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September/ October 2011



Mayors' Bike Ride

Monday, September 5th, 9:00am
Ellis Park, Cedar Rapids

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, September 12th, 7:00pm
People's Church
4980 Gordon Street NW

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, October 10th, 7:00pm
Location: TBD, *check website for details.*