

Linn County Trails Association

Board Meeting

Monday January 13, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday January 14, 2014 at the United Way of East Central Iowa. A quorum was present. Those who attended the meeting were the following:

LCTA Board Members:

Steve Hershner (President), Paul Fiegen (Vice President), Keith Sutherland (Treasurer), Brad Mullin (Secretary) Sarah Barber Dean Barnum Michelle Barker Craig Elliot Vicky Evans Leland Freie Rex McCright Ron McGraw Dick Mundy Gary Palmer Larry Scott Kirschen Seah Mindy Sieffert John Wauer Mike Wilson Dick Woodward Kesha Billings Daniel Gibbins Brandon Whyte.

Guests

Kyle Lundberg Marjorie Jensen Lynn Jensen Jon Ernst John Hager Irv Mussman

Call to Order:

President, Steve Hershner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

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

Treasurer's Report:

On the January treasurer's report, Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$79,259 .The report was approved unanimously. Keith circulated a proposed budget for FY2014 for approval at the November meeting, John Wauer moved for approval of the budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation: Brandon Whyte, Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO), Multi-modal Transportation Planner

At the end of 2013, Brandon Whyte was hired as the CMPO Multi-Modal Transportation Planner. Before coming to Cedar Rapids, Brandon was the Assistant Transportation Planner at Active Transportation Alliance. With the Active Transportation Alliance, he prepared bicycle and pedestrian plans for clients across Illinois. Based in Chicago, Illinois, the Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for bicycling, walking and transit and engage people in healthy and active ways to get around. Brandon specific interests and goals are to improve the transportation networks upon which we depend on to live our lives.

Brandon discussed the three functions of the Multi-Modal Transportation Planner:

1. Planning
2. Funding
3. Education and Outreach

In addition, Brandon outlined the objectives of the Multi-Modal Planner:

1. Complete Streets Design Standards for area projects.
2. Updating the Metro-Wide Comprehensive Plan.
3. Secure as much funding as possible for trails and cycling projects.

4. A complete metro-wide way-finding system.
5. Increase media presence through all mediums.
6. Increase community support for cycling.
7. Increase overall ridership within the community.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Public Awareness and Support (Paul Fiegen):

1. Linn County Trails Association Website:

Paul discussed the use of Google Analytics and possible upgrades to a mobile website. The board discussed fees charged by Cyber Innovation in regards to maintenance of the website.

B. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. City of Marion: Kesha Billings reported on the following Marion developments:

- a. Lindale Trail: The Marion section of the Lindale Trail is paved and completed.
- b. Grant Wood Trail: The city is working on obtaining easements for the trail from Highway 13 to 35th St.
- c. Indian Creek Trail: The CMPO's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee approved funding for the development of a trail through the Indian Creek floodplain. Funding is available in 2017 for the trail.
- d. Marion Master Trail Plan: The city has approved the update of the Marion Master Plan. Plans include the creation of a steering committee and public input meetings (February-April)

C. Government Support:

1. Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO): The CMPO approved the 5 year fiscally Constrained Plan. The 5 trail segments to receive funding are:

The Bowling Street Trail

Dry Creek Trail:

Edgewood Rd. Trail: Highway 30 Overpass

Edgewood Rd. Trail: North Phase (from Ellis Blvd. to Glass Rd.)

Edgewood Rd. Trail: South Phase (from Ellis Blvd. to O Ave.)

The CMPO has approved plans for the re-development of the trail crossing at 42nd St.

D. Trail Operations and Safety (Jeff Keiser):

1. No Report

New Business:

1. **LCTA Board Member Roster:** John Wauer moved that Brando Whyte join the LCTA as a Advisory Board Member. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Linn County Conservation, Cedar Valley Nature Trail Paving (Schultz Rd. to Center Point)** : The County was notified that they were not awarded a grant with their recent application. As an alternative to grant funding, the County is working to identify local funding for the project. The County will continue to apply for grants as opportunities arise. We are currently in the budgeting process for FY 2015. The project has an estimated cost of \$1.2 million dollars.

Proposed budget at this time:

1. \$750,000 - Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) funds
2. \$290,000 – ITC funds
3. \$60,000 – Conservation Board Reserve Funds
4. \$100,000 – LCTA Contribution

Assuming the budget is approved, the County projects the following timeline:

Fall 2014 – Develop RFP for design and engineering

Winter 2014/15 – Trail engineering and design

Spring 2015 – Bid

Summer 2015 –Construction

Again, the County thinks this is the most optimistic timeline and is subject to change. This timeline would mean that we would need LCTA funds sometime in early to mid-2015. The CVNT would be paved through Center Point to the Urbana Blacktop.

3. Iowa Trails Council:

In the past, the LCTA has allocated \$10 of every Trail Blazer contribution (\$100) to the Iowa Trails Council (ITC). In return, each Trail Blazer contributor received an ITC newsletter. Due to no formal activity of the Iowa Trails Council in recent years, Keith Sutherland moved the following:

- a. Removal of the \$10 allocation to the ITC with every \$100 contributor.
- b. No longer provide funding to the Iowa Trails Council beginning in 2013

The motion passed unanimously

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February/ March 2013

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, February 10, 7:00pm

Location: United Way of East Central Iowa
317 7th Avenue SE

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, March 10, 7:00pm

Location: United Way of East Central Iowa
317 7th Avenue SE