

Linn County Trails Association

Board Meeting

Monday April 14, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday April 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), Brad Mullin (Secretary) Sarah Barber Michelle Barker Vicky Evans Leland Freie Rex McCright Ron McGraw Gary Palmer Eric Penne Kirschen Seah Mindy Sieffert Dick Woodward Dan Biechler Dennis Goemaat Kesha Billings Ed Holstrom Brandon Whyte.

Guests

Kyle Lundberg John Hager Jan Baustain Irv Mussman Doug Wilson

Call to Order:

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

Approval of the Minutes:

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

Treasurer's Report:

In Keith's absence, Steve Hershner distributed the March treasurer's report, Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$81,286.

Presentation:Doug Wilson: City of Cedar Rapids Public Works Dept, Capital Improvement Project Manager:

\$75 million dollars improvements to Collins Road will consist of 9 construction phases anticipated to occur over the next decade. The project addresses poor vehicle capacity at the existing signalized intersections, lack of pedestrian access, lack of bicycle accommodations, improved transit access, and assist corridor economic development. At a recent meeting, the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization approved \$1.6 million of dedicated trail funding for the construction of a pedestrian underpass of the new Collins Rd. and a trail segment on the north side of Collins Road to accompany the underpass. The underpass will be located at the Lindale Mall entrance underneath the intersection. The City seeks to obtain an Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program grant for another roadway underpass extending Lindale Drive under the new Collins Road into the Lindale Mall Parking lot. The new road will consist of 5 foot sidewalks and bicycle lanes. Currently, this underpass is not funded.

Volunteer Opportunities

1. Ride, Walk, Play CR:

Gary Palmer reported that the Ride, Walk, Play CR event will occur on Saturday, May 24th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Ten different organizations have agreed to participate. The one mile ride/walk will start National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. The route will use the Cedar River Trail and visit the African American Museum of Iowa and the Cedar Rapids Art Museum. Gary circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers. As part of the City of Cedar Rapid's Special Events Permit, the LCTA is required to purchase additional liability insurance for the event. This policy would be similar to that of the Mayors' Bike Ride. Brad Mullin moved

that the LCTA allocate \$400 for the purchase of additional insurance for the Ride, Walk, Play CR event on May 24th, 2014. Leland Freie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. National Trails Day: The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day is Saturday, June 7th. It coincides with the Downtown District's Farmers Market. More details and a sign-up sheet will be available at the May meeting

Old Business

1. Cedar Valley Nature Trail Capital Campaign: Steve Hershner circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers to serve on the capital campaign committee.

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Corridor MPO Report (Brandon Whyte)

1. Brandon has begun weekly cyclists/commuter counts on area streets and trails

2. Hoover Nature Trail: The Ely City Council voted unanimously to accept the current alignment from Ely City Hall to Seven Sisters Road.

3. County Trail System Branding: Brandon discussed the process of formulating a name for the entire trail system in Linn County. As part of the process, the LCTA is able to vote on proposed names for the system.

The seven names considered are: (*votes by board members in attendance are listed in parentheses*) :

Linn Metro Trails (1)

Linn Corridor Trails (14)

Corridor Prairie Trails (1)

Corridor Trails (0)

Cedar River Trails(3)

Cedar Corridor Trails(0)

Cedar Metro Trails: (0)

As a group the LCTA Board voted in favor of Linn Corridor Trails to be considered as the prefer name of the area trail system.

B. Public Awareness and Support (Paul Fiegen):

1. Trans-America Health Fair

The Linn County Trails Association had table at the annual Trans-America Health Fair. On Tuesday April 8th: 10:30am – 1:30pm at 6400 C St. SW, Cedar Rapids and Wednesday, April 9th: 4333 Edgewood Rd. NE (located on the corner of Edgewood Rd. and 42nd St.) 10:30am – 1:00pm. Gary Palmer, Rex McCright and Paul Fiegen volunteered.

2. Regional Trails Network Iowa General Assembly:

In February 2014, Johnson, Linn, and Black Hawk County officials asked the state Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee for \$8.2 million to help connect a network of trails to help create recreation, tourism, economic development, and workforce development. The route would extend from Cedar Valley Nature Trail in Cedar Falls to Iowa City's Hoover Nature Trail, as well as to Solon and West Branch toward Muscatine. During recent budget negotiations, the funding for the program was reduced or eliminated . Dennis Goemaat encouraged LCTA members to contact their local legislators about the need to include trail funding in the upcoming budget. Phones calls to legislators are helpful as well.

C. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. Cedar River Trail Closure:

Closure of the Cedar River Trail between Highway 30 underpass and Ely Rd. underpass is scheduled for Spring 2014. The closure is due to sanitary sewer improvements behind the Worley Warehousing facility. The closure is expected to last 30 days.

2. Cedar River Trail Closure: Steve Hershner spoke with Steve Krug of the Cedar Rapids Parks Department about damage to the Cedar River Trail around Cedar Lake. The damage was the result of ITC's installation of new power poles. Repairs are scheduled for mid-spring or early summer.

3. Marion Master Trail Plan: The city has approved the update of the Marion Master Plan. Plans include the creation of a steering committee. The first public input session was Tuesday, February 25th at the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center (Marion) from 4-6pm. Following the Marion Master Trails Plan input meeting, a website and survey were created to collect additional feedback. Copies of the survey are available at: <http://linncountytrails.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/03/Marion-Master-Trails-Plan-User-Survey.pdf>. Surveys need to be completed by the middle of April 2014. Return surveys to Marion City Hall, or e-mail it to Kesha Billings at kbillings@cityofmarion.org. The City of Marion also has a new online mapping tool for trail comments and input. This tool can be used to suggest new trails, safety improvements, or even general comments about the trails. The mapping tool can be found at this URL: <http://marion-soulside.dotcloud.com/>. The open house to display the results will be May 29th.

4.Linn County Conservation:

a. Cedar Valley Nature Trail closure: Linn County reported that repairs to the Apple Creek Bridge (just north of Center Point) is under contract with no start date. The closure is expected to last 20 consecutive working days.

b. Grant Wood Trail: The Iowa Department of Transportation has relocated control of the project to the local office. The bid letting is scheduled for July 15th. Preliminary construction will occur in 2015. Creation of the a new parking at 62nd Street may start in Summer 2014.

5. LAMBA: The LAMBA will hold a garlic mustard pull at Beverly Park as part of United Way Day of Caring.

D. Trail Operations and Safety (Jeff Keiser):

1. No Report

New Business:

1. **New LCTA Board Meeting location:** The current meeting location, Human Services Building, notified the LCTA that a \$25 a month fee will be charged for the use of the meeting rooms beginning March 2014. The board discussed the exploration of finding other meeting locations. Leland Freie moved that LCTA hold monthly board meeting at the Shores Event Center. Michelle Barker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, May 12th , 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100

LCTA National Trails Day Celebration:

Saturday, June 7th 8am-11am

Greene Square Park, Cedar Rapids.

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, June 9th , 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100