

Linn County Trails Association

Board Meeting

Monday May 12, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday May 12, 2014 at the Shores Event Center. 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) Michelle Barker Dean Barnum Ron McGraw Dick Mundy Gary Palmer Larry Scott Kirschen Seah Mindy Sieffert John Wauer Mike Wilson Randy Burke Kesha Billings Ed Holstrom.

Guests

Bill Wharton John Hager Deb Leubben Dale Todd Felicia Wyrick

Call to Order:

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

Approval of the Minutes:

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

Treasurer's Report:

In Keith's absence, Steve Hershner distributed the April treasurer's report, Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$82,126.

Presentation: Dale Todd and Felicia Wyrick: Friends of Cedar Lake:

Friends of Cedar Lake is a coalition of stakeholders committed to creating community support to improve and protect the lake, the adjacent area, and its watershed by developing and implementing a plan to improve the lake's water quality, enhance the fishery and provide additional recreational opportunities. The Friends of Cedar Lake believe that the area can become an asset for our community. By cleaning up the area and adding amenities such as docks, observation decks, playgrounds, canoe and kayak rentals, Cedar Lake Park will become a destination for families throughout the Creative Corridor. Alliant Energy, which owns the lake, is embarking on work to decommission its Sixth Street Generating Station. This provides a perfect opportunity to revitalize the lake. Funding for lake restoration projects could come from a variety of sources: Alliant Energy, Vision Iowa Fund, Environmental Protection Agency and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Within the redevelopment site plan, trails play an important role.

New trail development could include:

1. Improvements to the Cedar River Trail around the lake, including a boardwalk connecting the west and east sides of the lake on the south end.
2. Trailhead development at the H Ave. parking lot on the east side of the lake.
3. Access to the lake on the south side under Interstate I-380/27 connecting the lake to St. Lukes Hospital and the Coe College Community. (Coe Trail Connection/Trailhead)
4. Development on the west side of lake near the 4th Street entrance with a new trail entrance, trailhead, and parking (Stickle Trailhead)
5. Creation of trail system connecting islands in the Cedar River backwaters to the Cedar Lake trail system and Mohawk Park (Mohawk Connection).

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.

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. Brad circulated a sign-up sheet for the event.

3. Meet Me At the Market: Meet Me At the Market is held every Thursday at the NewBo City Market. LCTA is a co-sponsor of the event. There is a need for more volunteers for the event. Please contact John Wauer if you interest in volunteering.

4. Trail Counts/ Trail Counters: There is a need for more trail counts along all of the area trails. In addition, some of the trail counter posts are in need of some maintenance. Volunteers are need for applying blue paint to some of the counters. A new counter is going to be installed on the Lindale Trail on June 8th. If you would like to volunteer for any of the trail counter activities, contact John Wauer.

5. Mile Marker Painting: Volunteers are needed for finishing the painting of mile markers on the Cedar River Trail. Painting will commence once construction is finished and new templates and paint are acquired. Contact John Wauer if you would like to volunteer.

Old Business

A. Cedar Valley Nature Trail Capital Campaign: The first meeting for the capital campaign is Monday, May 19th at 5:15pm at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, Beems Auditorium , Room "A"

Reports for Standing Committees:

A. Corridor MPO Report (Brandon Whyte)

1. **County Trail System Branding:** Steve reported the four finalists for the re-branding of the Linn County Trail System. The finialists are:

Linn Metro Trails

Linn Corridor Trails (*LCTA's choice at the April Meeting*)

Cedar River Trails

Grant Wood Trails

B. Public Awareness and Support (Paul Fiegen):

1. In conjunction with Bike to Work Week, Paul Fiegen and Michelle Barker appeared on KCRG to promote bicycling and trail usage.

2. The Corridor Beer Festival will occur at the NewBo City Market on Saturday, June 7th. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer, the event will donate \$20 to the charity of your choice for your service.

C. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):

1. Abandoned Railroad Right-of –Way, Former Nash-Finch Property:

Hunter Companies has acquired the former Nash-Finch Property. Initially, the company was receptive of a trail along the abandoned railroad right-of-way. LCTA has approached Hunter Companies about including a trail in future development plans. LCTA has approached another property owner about a section of railroad right-of-way connected to the Nash-Finch property for trail development.

2. 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 work starting after September 1, 2014. 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 a new parking at 62nd Street may start in Summer 2014.

c. Hoover Trail: The Ely City Council has agreed to the alignment parallel to Ely Road on the east side. Preliminary work, rough grading and drainage culverts, could occur this fall. The construction of the trail will occur after funding is secured.

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 open house to display the results will be May 29th. The Marion Farmer's Market will offer bicycle parking beginning with the first market on June 14th. Volunteers are needed.

4. LAMBA: The LAMBA will hold a garlic mustard pull at Beverly Park as part of United Way Day of Caring. The group is working on obtaining funds to hire a contractor to work on singletrack trails within Squaw Creek Park.

D. Trail Operations and Safety (Jeff Keiser):

1. No Report

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, July 14th , 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100