

# **Linn County Trails Association**

## **Board Meeting**

### **Monday June 09, 2014**

The monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Monday June 09, 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 Vicky Evans Leland Freie Dick Mundy Tom Peffer Eric Penne Larry Scott Kirschen Seah Mindy Sieffert John Wauer Mike Wilson Dick Woodward Dan Beichler Dennis Goemaat Kesha Billings

#### **Guests**

Ken Barker John Hager Kevin Kirchner Erv Mussman Lance Mager

#### **Call to Order:**

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

#### **Approval of the Minutes:**

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

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

In Keith's absence, Steve Hershner distributed the May treasurer's report, Keith Sutherland reported current assets of \$82,981.

#### **Presentation: Michelle Barker Linn Area Mountain Bike Association:**

LAMBA is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization dedicated to creating and maintaining opportunities for sustainable natural surface singletrack mountain biking trails in the Linn County area of Iowa. LAMBA is a chapter of the International Mountain Bike Association.

2012-2013:

Request from Cedar Rapids Parks to develop possible singletrack trails plan for Sac and Fox corridor

2013-2014:

Studied corridor and developed singletrack trails concept plan

2014:

Stakeholder meetings with Cedar Rapids Parks Department and Indian Creek Nature Center (upcoming)

The objectives of the proposed trail system are as follows:

- 1) Create a singletrack trail system that appeals to a wide spectrum of user abilities: from families and beginners to the users with advanced skills and fitness. System should provide the quality and quantity of experiences to serve residents in proximity to Cedar Rapids.
- 2) Create a singletrack trail system that is environmentally and socially sustainable, one that contributes to and best highlights the natural beauty of the Indian Creek and Cedar River corridors.
- 3) Design a singletrack trail system that complements existing park infrastructure, blends with the existing multi use trail, provides a more intimate immersion in nature.

4) Create a trail system that can be implemented based on a reasonable timeline and budget, including a phased development approach.

#### Project Description:

Flowing through the riparian woods and grasslands adjacent to the Cedar River and Indian Creek, these segments strive to create a trail experience rarely found in the area. The woodlands thicken as the trail ascends the Indian Creek tributary, allowing trail users the opportunity to playfully meander through the trees, providing users with a sense of immersion in nature. The proposed trail will take advantage of undulations in the landscape, resulting in a fun and adventurous singletrack trail experience.

The target patrons of these segments include multiple types of trail users, new users lacking the confidence, fitness, or skill, to consider wandering completely out of sight of familiar surrounding; and more experienced trail enthusiasts seeking a longer, more adventurous journey. Examples of the former are youth on "strider" bicycles or the fitness and dog walkers currently using the Sac & Fox / Prairie Creek Fishery trails; the latter, endurance cyclists or trail runners, and adventurous sorts seeking natural refuge in proximity to the urban environment. Sac and Fox Project

The proposed alignments mirror the Sac & Fox, flowing nicely onto and off from the trail at the natural bends near the existing park infrastructure such as parking areas and the bike ped. bridge / equestrian crossings. Once off the Sac & Fox, the singletrack trail has the opportunity to flow in and around a mix of trees and grasses, providing an immersion in nature experience just out of site (viewshed) of adjacent properties, roads, and the Sac & Fox itself.

Some segment parcels contain significant amounts of brightly-colored plastic debris, presumably from flooding. Construction of the singletrack trail, as well as its use and maintenance provide access and opportunity for immediate cleanup and future stewardship of the property. Careful consideration of these alignments with respect to proximity to adjacent properties and infrastructure has been taken into consideration in regard to viewshed (visibility). Navigating singletrack trails is considered a "silent sport" and disturbing adjacent residents and or their animals is highly unlikely

#### Volunteer Opportunities

##### **1. Ride, Walk, Play CR:**

Paul Fiegen reported that the Ride, Walk, Play CR was Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Ten different organizations participated. 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 was Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Brad reported that event was well attended and volunteers parked over 100 bicycles. 2014 NTD sponsors were:

Hy-Vee

Skykora Bakery

Jules Bakery

Coffeesmiths

Blue Strawberry

Croissant du Jour

Wal-Mart (East and West)

Panera Bread

Fareway Food Stores

Quaker Oats (Pepsico)

Brad also thanked the volunteers for this year's event:

Vicky Evans

Paul Fiegen

Larry Scott

Kirschen Seah

John Wauer

Steve Hershner

Dean and Jan Barnum

Ron McGraw

Leland Freie

Mike Wilson

**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:** Some of the trail counter posts are in need of maintenance. Volunteers are need for applying blue paint to some of the counters. If you would like to volunteer for any of the trail counter activities, contact John Wauer. The board discussed ideas for labeling counters for easier identification and reporting. John Wauer proposed that LCTA print business cards with reporting procedure on one side and list of trail counter locations on the opposite. Mike Wilson moved that LCTA print 500 business cards for distribution at a cost of fifty dollars. Paul Fiegen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Trail Closure Notices:**

Recent trail closures due to construction and flooding led to a discussion of improving the procedure notifying trail users of the closures.

### **Old Business**

**A. Cedar Valley Nature Trail Capital Campaign:** The first meeting for the capital campaign was Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Rockwell Collins expressed interest in providing funds.

### **Reports for Standing Committees:**

#### **A. Trail Development (Steve Hershner):**

##### **1.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 was rescheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary construction will occur in spring 2015. Creation of a new parking at 62<sup>nd</sup> Street will begin in the summer of 2014. The trail will closed during construction.

**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. The County is negotiating the acquisition of three permanent easements on private property for the trail. In July, the County will submit a State Recreational Trails Program grant for the construction of the trail.

**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 Marion Farmer's Market will offer bicycle parking beginning with the first market on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed. Marion plans to hire a design firm for the construction of the trail from Highway 13 to 35<sup>th</sup> St. in August. In Spring 2015, the project will be let with construction occurring during the summer.

**B. Trail Operations and Safety (Jeff Keiser):**

1. No Report

**New Business:**

1. **July Board Meeting:** After discussion, Dick Mundy moved that the cancel the July 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Leland Freie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously,

2. **Five Seasons Citizenship Award.** Each year the Cedar Rapids City Council recognizes five outstanding Cedar Rapids residents who demonstrate exceptional support for our community, exhibit the responsibilities of strong citizenship and develop projects or initiatives that benefit other residents of our community. On Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>, LCTA's John Wauer received a Five Seasons Citizenship Award. John received a \$1,000 check to donate the LCTA.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm



## **Linn County Trails Association**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



**LCTA Board Meeting**

Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

No Meeting

**LCTA Board Meeting**

Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100