

PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH COMMISSION

Friday, December 15, 2017
Pecatonica Public Library
400 W. 11th Street
Pecatonica, Illinois
9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 9:30

1. Roll Call

Directors Present: Steve Ehlbeck, Freeport Park District (Retired); Tim Bragg, Alt. Delegate, Rockford Park District; Mike Holan, Delegate, Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; and Claire Webb, Delegate, Stephenson County

Other Staff Present: Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Dennis Carr, City of Freeport; Randy Bukas, City of Freeport Others Present: Stephen Aries , Michelle Cunningham, Vivian Gaines, Janet Klinger and Kristy Knapp,

2. Approval of Minutes – September 15, 2017 (Tim B.)

Randy Bukas moved; Claire Webb seconded approval of the minutes from the September, 15 2017 meeting of the Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission. Motion passed.

3. Presentation

None

4. Treasurer's Report – (Claire W.)

Treasurer Claire Webb stated she was still awaiting payment from Stephenson County for the annual agency member contributions (Stephenson County revised their fiscal calendar). Mike Holan moved; Randy Bukas seconded approval to place the Treasurer's report on file. Motion passed.

5. Legislation

None

6. Reports –

a. Staff

Winnebago County (Carlos M.)

The DeGarmo trailhead is completed with the exception of minor punch list items. County staff will plow/salt the trailhead during the winter for patrons.

The sanitary sewer project in Winnebago County is completed. The path is usable, and site restoration is scheduled to commence in the spring. The box holding path brochures needs to be reinstalled and replenished with brochures.

Stephenson County

Stephenson County has an August bid letting scheduled. Current section of focus remains Tutty's Landing to the Route 20 bypass at the county line. Future phases are still up for consideration as a 2019 grant submittal.

ComEd Bridge Issues

Winnebago County is scheduled to replace a bridge structure near Conley Road; ComEd is undergoing a Request for Proposals for various structures along the Winnebago County section of pathway.

Stephenson County officials met with ComEd regarding maintenance standards. ComEd is preparing a Capital repair/replacement plan for pathways within Stephenson County. Discussions with ComEd are also pending regarding the distance between the path and ComEd's utility poles.

b. Publicity/Marketing:

A sample path user application (Special Event Request Form) was distributed to the Commission for comments/discussion. Commissioners also discussed contacting the webpage consultant to assist with creating a fillable application form that could be submitted online.

c. Maintenance Report:

The Commission discussed ongoing drainage/washout issues along the path; west of Berglund Road. The local snowmobile group (Mark Hazard) has offered assistance regarding signage to inform as to where snowmobiles are permitted. Current maintenance activities also discussed included the Village of Winnebago plowing paved sections of the path through the village.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business-for discussion: Illinois Supreme Court Holds Absolute Immunity Not Applicable to Bike Paths

Commissioner discussed that George Bellovics (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) commented that IDNR is still reviewing whether the immunity is applicable to aggregate paths and/or paved paths. The Commission noted this will be an ongoing discussion topic; and a suggestion was made to consider consulting Attorney Bruce Ross-Shannon (Attorney Ross-Shannon has provided past legal assistance to the Commission in the past).

9. Adjourn / Recess

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.