

PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION

Friday, June 21, 2019
Pecatonica Public Library
400 W. 11th Street
Pecatonica, Illinois
9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 9:36

1. Roll Call

Directors Present: Steve Ehlbeck, Freeport Park District (Retired); Dennis Carr, Delegate, City of Freeport; Tim Bragg, Alt. Delegate, Rockford Park District; and Claire Webb, Delegate, Stephenson County

Other Staff Present: Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Others Present: James Brechlin; Michelle Cunningham; Kirstin Hinds; Fred Kile; Janet Klinger and Dennis Seaton.

2. Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2019 (Tim B.)

Dennis Carr moved; Tim Bragg seconded approval of the minutes as amended from the March 15, 2019 meeting of the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission. Motion passed.

3. Presentation

In lieu of a presentation, the Commission deferred to allow for any public comments. Dennis Seaton, trail user, spoke regarding concerns on path maintenance east and west of Pecatonica. His concerns were the height of weeds (in the center of the trail and the trail shoulders) and trail erosion. ___ mentioned his past volunteer trail maintenance; but now no longer had access to equipment.

The Commission mentioned past discussions regarding approving targeted herbicide spraying weeds along the trail. Mr. Molina stated Winnebago County does not have the staff to spray chemicals, but has “scraped/bladed” the trail in the past. Mr. Molina offered to send County staff out again to assess trail conditions.

4. Treasurer’s Report – (Claire W.)

Treasurer Claire Webb reported no expenses since the last Commission meeting. Ms. Webb is awaiting the refund of a \$15 service charge. Dennis Carr move; Tim Bragg seconded approval to place the Treasurer’s report on file. Motion passed.

5. Legislation

(19-001) RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PECATONICA PRAIRIE COMMISSION BUDGET FOR FY 2020, 2021 & 2022. Commission members had discussed the proposed budget during the March 2019 meeting and with no further discussion, Tim Bragg moved; Claire Webb seconded a motion to approve Resolution #19-001. A roll call vote was taken with City of Freeport, Freeport Park District, Rockford Park District and Stephenson County voting in favor of the resolution.

(19-002) RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE DATE< TIME AND LOCATION OF EACH MEETING OD THE PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION FOR FY 2020. The

meeting dates for FY 2020 were discussed/confirmed as follows: September 20, 2019; December 13, 2019; March 20, 2020 and June 19, 2020. Claire Webb moved; Dennis Carr seconded a motion to approved Resolution #19-002. Motion passed.

(19-003) RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION ALLOWING FOR EXPENDITURES OF UNALLOCATED FUNDS. The Commission discussed taking formal action on past discussion of a budget amendment for an \$8,000 allotment per agency for maintenance projects. The allocations will occur as an agency reimbursement. Claire Webb moved; Dennis Carr seconded a motion to approve Resolution 19-003. A roll call vote was taken with City of Freeport, Freeport Park District, Rockford Park District and Stephenson County voting in favor of the resolution.

6. Reports –

a. Staff

Winnebago County (Carlos M.)

Winnebago County staff will discuss under the “Maintenance Report” section of the agenda.

Stephenson County

Fischer was the winning bid for the next phase of trail development. The project limits are from Tutty’s Crossings to River Road and will be constructed over two seasons (wrapping up in Spring 2020). Completion of future sections will be dependent on discussions with ComEd (Stephenson County has 110 +/- poles where a trail buffer/”bump out” may come into play). Stephenson County also awaits feedback from ComEd regarding skirting around a bridge structure and surface restoration/vertical improvements policies. The county is also exploring the use of non-ITEP funding for future trail sections to avoid federal regulations that require provisions for 2’ shoulders.

b. Publicity/Marketing:

Michelle Cunningham, Winnebago Park District, mentioned 15 people to date had registered the June 29th Firecracker 5K run on the trail.

c. Maintenance Report:

Carlos Molina mentioned a partial closure between Falconer Road to Weldon Road, due to a culvert failure. Winnebago County is looking to complete the repairs within a week (weather permitting). Commissioners also talked about whether any data existed regarding trail use (and possibly implementing the use of electronic counters; and/or volunteer counters, to gauge trail use.

7. Old Business

- a. Tim Bragg had nothing new to report on efforts for the Rockford Park District to start its section of the trail. Mr. Bragg stated the local match commitment remains an issue; and the Park District has had no recent discussions with the City of Rockford to coordinate potential revisions regarding the trail alignment. Past discussions with City of Rockford did not yield a firm commitment from City staff).

8. New Business

9. Adjourn / Recess

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.