

PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION

Friday, June 16, 2023
Pecatonica Public Library
400 W. 11th Street
Pecatonica, Illinois
9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 9:35

1. Roll Call

Directors Present: Tim Bragg, Alt. Delegate, Rockford Park District; Carlos Molina, Delegate, Winnebago County Highway Department, Rob Boyer, Delegate, City of Freeport

Others Present: Eric Moe, Zach Trotz, Robert Hunter, Dennis Seaton, Richard Backeberg, Burt Andersen, Rick Sager, Janet Klinger, Sante De Marco, Gary & Mary Buettner, Leeana Alcantar (Rockford Park District) and John & Jackie Moyer.

2. Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2023

Rob Boyer moved, Tim Bragg seconded approval of the meeting minutes from the March 17, 2023, meeting. Motion passed.

3. Presentation-

None.

4. Treasurer's Report – (Carlos M.)

Carlos Molina distributed the report which reflected a combined operational balance (General Account balance and Special Accounts balance) of \$53,497.75 through June 2023. Rob Boyer moved; Tim Bragg seconded a motion to place the Treasurer's report on file. Motion passed.

5. Special Accounts Reports

See meeting agenda item #4.

6. Legislation –

(23-001) RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION BUDGET FOR FY 2024, 2025 & 2026.

The resolution was brought forward for a vote as public discussion occurred at the March 17th meeting. Rob Boyer moved, Tim Bragg seconded approval of the resolution. Motion passed.

(23-002) RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF EACH MEETING OF THE PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION.

The resolution was brought forward for a vote as public discussion occurred at the March 17th meeting. Rob Boyer moved, Tim Bragg seconded approval of the resolution. Motion passed.

7. Reports

a. Staff

Winnebago County (Carlos M.)

Mr. Molina stated the Winnebago County Highway Department had been working recently with ComEd to remove and replace an incorrect size aggregate stone material installed by ComEd. The aggregate product was not the correct size for multiuse trails. Meeting attendees raised questions as to who cleared along the trail from Hoisington Road to Winnebago. Mr. Molina stated this was likely the Village of Winnebago and further stated Winnebago County does not spray for weed control. The section of trail from Conger Road to Berglund was also discussed as an area in need of mowing.

Stephenson County

Mr. Boyer reported on a recent City sponsored cleanup. Beyond the sponsored cleanup, routine branch trimming and mowing were ongoing within Stephenson County. Members of the public voiced questions as to the commitment of trail expansions in Stephenson County. Mr. Molina stated that Jim Gastel, who was not at the meeting, would be better poised to comment on that matter. Mr. Molina discussed the challenges of securing funds at the local level for a grant match, and the additional expenses that sometime accompany a Federal grant as barriers to development. Citing these barriers, Mr. Molina said in some instances, funding a project 100% with local funds is a more viable option. Mr. Boyer said he would contact appropriate staff/elected officials representing Stephenson County. Suggestions were made to also contact (and extend meeting invitations) out to local and state legislators; as well as contacting George Gaulrapp with ComEd. Mr. Sager voiced concerns about trail maintenance (mowing) within Stephenson County and offered to volunteer mowing. Mr. Boyer agreed to follow up with him regarding volunteer opportunities; but advised of liability matters that arise with volunteers using municipal equipment.

Publicity/Marketing: PPT Website Upgrade Discussion

Mr. Molina reported that the issues with the commission's webpage had been resolved. The commission has a website hosting fee of \$25/month.

8. Old Business-

See Publicity/Marketing report.

9. New Business

Meeting attendees were advised to contact IDNR or the Village of Pecatonica in response to a question raised about "wetland delineation" ribbons along the trail.

10. Adjourn / Recess

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.