

PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION

Friday, September 15, 2023
Pecatonica Public Library
400 W. 11th Street
Pecatonica, Illinois
9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 9:32

1. Roll Call

Directors Present: Tim Bragg, Alt. Delegate, Rockford Park District; Steve Ehlbeck, Delegate, Freeport Park District (Retired) Carlos Molina, Delegate, Winnebago County Highway Department, Jim Gastel, Delegate, Stephenson County.

Others Present: John Moyer, Robert Hunter, Janet Klinger and Al Hanson.

2. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2023

Carlos Molina moved, Jim Gastel seconded approval of the meeting minutes from the June 16, 2023, meeting. Motion passed.

3. Presentation-

None.

4. Treasurer's Report – (Carlos M.)

Steve Ehlbeck distributed the report which reflected a combined operational balance (General Account balance and Special Accounts balance) of \$53,473.15 through June 2023. Carlos Molina moved; Jim Gastel seconded a motion to place the Treasurer's report on file. Motion passed. Steve Ehlbeck also presented an invoice from the Freeport Park District. Freeport Park District was seeking reimbursement for paying the fee (\$52.32) to retain the website domain name. Reimbursement to the Freeport Park District was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of commissioners (Freeport Park District, Rockford Park District, Winnebago County and Stephenson County)

5. Special Accounts Reports

See meeting agenda item #4.

6. Legislation –

(23-003) RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR FY 2024.

Steve Ehlbeck stated the current slate of officers all expressed a willingness to serve another term, and opened the floor for additional nominations. Jim Gastel made a motion to approve the current slate of officers. Hearing no further nominations, the nominations were closed. The current slate of officers were approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

7. Reports

a. Staff

Winnebago County (Carlos M.)

Mr. Molina stated the Winnebago County Highway Department continues addressing miscellaneous maintenance issues. Winnebago County also continues to communicate with other entities (villages, Sumner Park District) for their assistance. Mr. Molina also mentioned ComEd recent replacement of stone material along the trail.

Stephenson County

Stephenson County cost updates/verifications continue, but are in a preliminary range of 4-6 million dollars. An unknown variable regarding the cost estimates is possible requirements ComEd may have for “bump outs” near their utility poles. Rob Boyer is looking to get all three agencies in Stephenson County together to collectively evaluate the feasibility of completing the trail construction.

The agencies will need to discuss areas where there is a need for substantial amount of decking repair/replacement; funding the local match requirement(s) for grant dollars and the current mindset/priority of the trail completion from the perspective of the current Stephenson County Board.

Commissioners also discussed the fact that Freeport mows/maintains the 3 +/- of completed trail, but does not undertake any mowing beyond those limits heading east.

Publicity/Marketing:

The Commission discussed that Richard Backeberg, owner of the Bicycle Hub, has an upcoming raffle for an E-bike giveaway. Mr. Backeberg would like to donate some of the raffle proceeds to the PPT. Commissioners also discussed the PPT website was back and operational, but may need some updates in terms of contact information to report trail maintenance issues and denoting what sections of the trail are not passable.

8. Old Business-

None.

9. New Business

Tim Bragg mentioned that the Rockford Park District (RPD) is submitting another trail planning grant. A new grant cycle opened and RPD remains hopeful in that the project scores well and is awarded funds to update the alignment for the RPD section of the trail.

10. Adjourn / Recess

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.