

PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL COMMISSION

Friday, December 9, 202~~2~~³
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 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Directors Present: Steve Ehlbeck, Freeport Park District (Retired); Jim Gastel, Delegate, Stephenson County; Rob Boyer, Delegate, City of Freeport

Other Staff Present: Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department. Others Present: Janet Klinger, Eric Moe, Richard Backeberg, Mark Hazzard

2. Approval of Minutes – December 9, 202~~2~~³

Carlos Molina moved, Rob Boyer seconded approval of the meeting minutes from the December 9, 2022 meeting. Motion passed.

3. Presentation-

None.

Erik Moe informed the Pecatonica Prairie Trail Commission (PPTC) that on behalf of the RPD, they submitted an application for a grant for preliminary engineering for an amount under \$400,000. The old project report is out of date and needs to be re-done. This section of path under the RPD's responsibility goes from Meridian Road, and following the old railroad / ComEd easement and ends in Liberty Park in Rockford. They are hopeful for a positive response.

Mark Hazzard thanked the Commission for the underpass tunnel so all outdoor enthusiasts are able to cross Bypass 20 safely. Further discussion followed by PPTC.

Mark Hazzard informed the PPTC that new RTP grant applications will re-open for submission from January 2023 to March 2023 after a few years of not taking applications.

Rob Boyer reported the bridge deck is in poor condition at Teddy Crossing. When the weather permits, they will begin the necessary repairs. Rob updated the PPTC that the City of Freeport is moving forward with the ITEP Grant for interconnecting existing parks and trails in and around the City of Freeport.

Richard Backeberg, owner of The Bicycle Hub in Pecatonica expressed his appreciation of the PPTC. Richard informed the Committee that he receives feedback that visitors do want the trail to extend to Stephenson County. The queries are generally for "bike packing", touring and gravel riding.

Janet Klinger updated the PPTC on the pamphlet holders being broken or having been removed or stolen from the trail. The current PPT pamphlet dated August 2016 contains outdated information. It was discussed if we should order new pamphlets or if people use technology such as their phones for information. Further discussion followed by the PPTC.

Janet Klinger updated the Committee regarding a landlocked parcel next to the ComEd easement. The owner is driving on the easement and burning rubbish on the PPT. ComEd does not allow motor vehicles on their easements. Further discussion followed by the PPTC.

4. **Treasurer's Report** – (Randy B.)

Steve Ehlbeck informed the PPTC that Beth Henning has resigned from the Treasurers position due to a new position with Stephenson County. City Manager, Randy Bukas from the City of Freeport will be overseeing the transition of all PPTC Treasurer Duties by the City of Freeport Treasurer's Office. This will also include the Special Account.

Steve indicated that invoices for annual \$1,000 fee would be mailed to each agency soon.

5. **Special Accounts Reports**

Please see notes from (#4) Treasurer's Report above.

Steve Ehlbeck moved to received financial records and reports and keep them on file. Annual due billing will be mailed out as part of the transition. Motion Carried. Unanimous by all.

6. **Legislation** –

7. **Reports -**

a. **Staff**

i. Winnebago County – (Carlos M.)

1. PPT / ComEd Bridge Replacement Update – Carlos Molina updated the PPTC that the completion date is scheduled for the end December of 2022. The bridge structure is temporarily being stored on Jackson Street and in the future will be moved to a Winnebago County quarry. ComEd wanted to replace the bridge due to truck weight limits.

ii. Stephenson County – (Steve E.) –

1. Steve Ehlbeck informed the PPTC that Stephenson County does not have any initiatives at this time to continue the trail construction. They did review some reports from 1999, 2020 and 2021. No further action at this time.

b. **Publicity / Marketing**

- i. PPT Website Upgrade Discussion – Steve Ehlbeck informed the PPTC that the domain for the website was not functioning. After some research Steve found out his name was as the domain owner when he was an employee of the Freeport Park District. That should be changed It was determined that originally the domain maintenance payment was purchased on an automatic payment through the Freeport Park District (FPD) but that was discontinued at one point. Further discussion continued. Steve indicated that our website Host should be the website Administrator and take care of any domain fees after approval of the PPTC. Steve was hopeful the website would be up by the end of the year.

8. **Old Business-**

9. **New Business**

Next scheduled meeting is on Friday, March 17, 2023

10. **Adjourn / Recess**

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.