

**REGULAR MEETING of the PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS COMMISSION**

Held at the Trailways Commission Office, 4480 Orion Road  
Rochester, Oakland County, Michigan

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Tuesday January 19, 2010 meeting was called to order by Chairman Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

**Voting Members Present:** Rock Blanchard, Marc Edwards (*enter 7:05 p.m.*), Maryann Whitman (*enter 7:05 p.m.*), Ravi Yalamanchi

**Voting Alternates Present:** Linda Gamage (*enter 7:03 p.m.*), Jeff Phillips, Kathy Thomas (*voting until 7:05 p.m.*)

**Non-Voting Alternates Present:** Nathan Klomp, Paul Miller (*enter 7:03 p.m.*), Martha Olijnyk

**Non-Voting Members Present:** None

**Voting Members Absent:** Ben Giovanelli, Edward Peters, Richard Schultz, Alice Young

**Alternates Absent:** Jeff Matis, Penny Shults

**Others Present:** John Makris, Attorney (*enter 7:10 p.m.*), Kristen Myers, Trail Manager

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION** by Thomas, supported by Phillips, ***Moved***, to approve the January 19, 2010 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes of December 15, 2009 Regular meeting, approve and file
- b. December Treasurer's Report, receive and file
- c. Purchase Authorization: Office Furnishings, approve

**MOTION** by Phillips, supported by Thomas, ***Moved***, that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES:** Ms. Myers presented the invoices in the amount of \$4,822.74.

This amount includes payment for the final 161 hours of mounted patrol in 2009 and payment for professional services to Mr. Makris relative to litigation. Fund balance is estimated at \$43,243.

**MOTION** by Whitman, supported by Edwards, ***Moved***, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$4,822.74 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**2010 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** Ms. Myers compiled a list of goals the Commission should consider focusing on in 2010 in terms of trail enhancements and projects, and commented that due to litigation, didn't know how much time she could spend on these goals. Discussion prompted ideas such as: researching Native American history along trail property that would

warrant signage or an art project, grooming the trails for cross country skiing, getting member communities and other organizations involved in proposed goals due to lack of funding, and finding ways to turn some goal suggestions into money-making opportunities. It was suggested focusing on goals that do not include on-going maintenance costs. Side parcel acquisition, as well as National Trails Day, the Labor Day Bridge Walk and sponsorships/grant efforts, should all be on-going goals. A drinking fountain close to the park in Rochester would take coordination with the City. Research on a plan for improvements to the Atwater area could be done this year with actual projects done in future years. Native plant brochures should be considered. Preliminary research and joint meetings for the Rochester Hills Art Project could be done. The question was asked if there is anything in the bylaws that prevents the Commission from hosting money-making events, i.e., a guided hike; the money collected could then be put toward a project. Mr. Makris is not aware of anything that would prevent the Commission from doing this. A business plan could be developed to pursue this type of fund-raising. This could be tied into the Friends Group. Other trails should be researched to see if there are other tested fund-raising plans out there. Timelines and due dates for the listed goals and objectives should be developed. Anyone who would like to assist in this endeavor should contact Ms. Myers. It was suggested that merchandise for sale could be offered on line through the website and to possibly work with the vendor who leases space during cider season at the Cider Mill to sell merchandise through their establishment. The Encroachment Policy should be completed this year. The Boy/Girl Scout Trail Field Trip program could be encouraged to do something with recycling on the trail, possibly for an environmental patch. Some sort of stewardship program along the trail should be developed in conjunction with Trails Day. Recurring events could be eliminated from the list. Our main focus should be on developing the Friends Group. Ms. Myers will fine-tune the list and insert preliminary timelines.

**NATIONAL TRAILS DAY UPDATE:** Ms. Myers indicated that environmental stewardship will be the focus for this day, and the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy, who is involved with the stewardship network, is definitely on board for the event. There will be an open garlic mustard pull from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The Conservancy would provide the volunteers to help identify the plant and keep people moving. There is a meeting at the end of January to discuss what areas along the trail have the biggest problem. It was suggested that the National Honor Society of the different high schools be contacted to volunteer for this event.

**MOUNTED PATROL CONTRACT DISCUSSION:** Ms. Myers indicated she had a phone call from a representative for the mounted patrol. Each year, we contract for 500 hours of mounted patrol services. The County has asked if the Commission would like to expand our hours by 100 for 2010. There has been a decrease in their hourly rate from \$16.57/hr. to \$16.16/hr., which based on the amount the Commission approved for the 2010 budget, would cover 528 hours of patrol time instead of 500. Ms. Myers is asking the members if they would like additional hours, and if so, where the money could come from as invoices have already been submitted to the member communities for their share of this expense. Ms. Myers explained that \$6,000 has already been transferred from fund balance to help cover costs this year and the operational budget will be higher than anticipated because of the Township's request for utility payment. We could contract for more bike patrol hours and receive more feedback for less money rather than mounted patrol hours if a need exists for additional patrol. After a short discussion, it is the consensus of the Commission to stay within our budget and contract for up to 528 hours. A letter should be sent to the County explaining our budgetary restrictions, thanking them for letting us know the availability of additional hours, and to let us know if these additional hours are available next year early enough so we can include the cost in the budget.

**COMMERCIAL USE POLICY – 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft:** Ms. Myers incorporated the changes suggested in November for the Commission’s review. All the vehicle related items are included under its own category. Based on other municipalities permit fees, the commercial temporary permit fees are suggested at \$50, and the use fees are suggested at \$500-\$1,000 per day depending on the scope of the project. After discussion, the following additional changes were suggested: the last sentence of Guidelines #1 (page 1) should be added to Vehicles/Traffic #1 (page 2); Vehicles/Traffic #3 (page 2) – include that non-essential production vehicles placed in a pre-determined locations off-site must be approved by the ordinances of the municipality where parked as well as rules and regulations of public roads; Proof of Insurance (page 2) - add a separate paragraph about proof of car/motor vehicle insurance as required by the State of Michigan as #2; page 3 – there is a #2 under Proof of Insurance that is not really about insurance – this should have its own caption of Temporary Use Permit and the paragraph should be #1; on page 2 under Guidelines #3; second last sentence remove the word “the” after the word alteration. Ms. Myers will revise the policy and bring back to the Commission for approval.

**MANAGER’S REPORT:** In addition to the written report, Ms. Myers indicated Ms. Young is proceeding with setting up the 501c3 and there will be a fee to the Commission. Ms. Young also wants the Commission to think about/discuss the possibility of a different meeting night.

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT:** No report given during regular session.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** For the benefit of our new member, Mr. Klomp, everyone introduced themselves. It was suggested that something could be done on the trail for Earth Day.

**ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION:**

**MOTION** by Phillips, supported by Whitman, *Moved*, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Ayes: Yalamanchi, Whitman, Gamage, Phillips, Edwards, Blanchard

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The Regular Meeting was called back to order at 8:52 p.m.

**MOTION** by Phillips, supported by Whitman, *Moved*, that our attorney act as directed during the Executive Session.

Ayes: All Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Yalamanchi, supported by Whitman, *Moved*, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:54 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: February 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

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EDWARD PETERS, Trailways Secretary