

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

Held at the Rochester Municipal Building, 400 Sixth Street  
Rochester, Oakland County, Michigan

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Tuesday October 20, 2009 meeting was called to order by Chairman Blanchard at 7:00 p.m.

**Voting Members Present:** Dave Becker (*enter 7:40 p.m.*), Rock Blanchard, Edward Peters, Richard Schultz, Alice Young

**Voting Alternates Present:** Linda Gamage (*voting until 7:40 p.m.*), Paul Miller (*enter 7:08 p.m., voting until 7:15 p.m.*), Martha Olijnyk, Kathy Thomas, Michael Webber (*enter 7:15 p.m., exit 8:37 p.m.*)

**Non-Voting Alternates Present:** Jeff Phillips (*enter 7:05 p.m.*)

**Non-Voting Members Present:** None

**Voting Members Absent:** Marc Edwards, Maryann Whitman, Ravi Yalamanchi

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

**Others Present:** John Makris, Attorney (*enter 7:15 p.m.*), Kristen Myers, Trail Manager

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION** by Schultz, supported by Young, ***Moved***, to approve the October 20, 2009 agenda as presented.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes of September 15, 2009 Regular meeting, approve and file
- b. September Treasurer's Report, receive and file

**MOTION** by Young, 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 \$20,101.44. This amount includes 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter staff wages and FICA, Mr. Makris' bill for professional services regarding the lawsuit, recording fees for 23 parcels, and payment for 136 hours of Mounted Patrol. Estimated fund balance is \$54,000.

**MOTION** by Young, supported by Olijnyk, ***Moved***, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of \$20,101.44 and orders be drawn for payment.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**TEMPORARY PERMIT POLICY – Review 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft:** Ms. Myers indicated last month's suggested changes have been incorporated into the draft policy and asked for further discussion

and comments. The cost of using the trail for commercial purposes should be a separate policy and will be on the agenda for discussion next month. Relative to advertising flyers or banners on the trail for an event – any advertising media itself, as well as location, needs to be approved by the Trail Manager as part of the permit process. Terms of the Permit require that the permit holder must conform to local ordinances, so a sign permit may be required from the respective community for any advertising off trail property. It is agreed that the Trail Manager will have the authority to approve the simpler requests; any complex applications can be brought to the Commission for approval. The permit requests will be listed on the consent agenda in the future. The following text changes were requested: Page 1 – Permit Application Information - #1 – “should not be finalized until approval is received”; #2 – “must be received by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission Manager a minimum”; #4 – “insurance requirements are listed under permit application process on page two”; #5 – “must remain open for public use for the duration”; #8 – “banners and/or other advertising and locations must be approved”; Page 2 - #10 – “suspend any requirement”; Page 3 – Application for Temporary Permit – first line “name of applicant or organization” then remove the word “organization” from the next three lines and indent; under “contact person name” remove the word “contact” from the next three lines and indent; #8 – “trail signage and locations must be approved”; Page 4 – Terms of the Permit - #1 – “he/she will leave the Trail property”; #2 – add a comma after the word easement (line 2), and “no changes are allowed unless written and approved in writing”; #3 – “permit holder or anyone authorized under the permit or any loss”; “all motor vehicles approved for use must”; and add a comma after the word governments (line 3), after the word damage (line 4); #4 – add a comma after the word owners (line 3) and after the words if so (line 3); and #6 – “permit holder or organization representative shall show”. Ms. Myers will make these changes and bring the revised draft back to the next meeting for approval. Any other suggested changes can be emailed to Ms. Myers for inclusion.

**PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION – Pet Waste Bag Systems:** Ms. Myers explained she received a call from a trail user that would like to donate money specifically for the purchase of Pet Waste Bag stations. 20% of survey respondents felt it was a needed improvement on the trail, the stations are used in most of the member community parks, this idea was included in the Master Plan, the bags are biodegradable and the dark green station design fits in with the natural environment of the trail. Ms. Myers researched costs involved and found a deal through zerowasteusa.com for “buy two stations, get one free”, and is recommending the Commission purchase these – the cost, including shipping, is \$724.73 and the donor has indicated he will cover the entire cost. The proposed locations are at the Tienken trailhead, the Gallagher trailhead and Clarkston/Kern trailhead. The stations could be installed and monitored through the end of winter, and depending on use, a decision whether to continue the program can be made for next year. Discussion ensued relative to the pros and cons of the idea. It was suggested we locate them on the trail and evaluate the program in spring to see if it has made a difference with this problem, and if not – remove them. Bag dispensers could be mounted on the kiosks so that we aren’t adding another item to the trail and the bags could be disposed of in the trashcans. One Commissioner commented that they are not convinced this is a good idea, and doesn’t think dog waste is a really big issue. Some of the waste is from free-running dogs, and not pet-owners, who usually carry a bag. If the Commission decides to go ahead with this project, maybe the stations/bags could be located off trail property (parking lots), but would still be visible to users. We could purchase six bag dispensers for \$356.00. After discussion, the majority consensus is to give this project a try, mount bag dispensers on the kiosks, directional signposts or near the trashcans, and evaluate the program’s success in the spring. It was suggested to check with other trails that use pet waste stations to see what their experience has been.

**MOTION** by Miller, supported by Young, *Moved*, to take advantage of the offered donation to purchase pet waste dispensers and bags without the signage, and allow the Trail Manager to determine how many dispensers and their location will be placed along the trail. The program will be evaluated in the spring.

Ayes: All, except for

Nays: Becker

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE TRAIL – Discussion:** Mr. Miller explained the reason he asked for this discussion is that different municipalities have different policies relative to invasive plants. He would like to come up with a uniform policy for the trail regarding this issue that would be helpful to municipalities for educational purposes and public awareness. It is realized that if we set a policy it means adding to our list of things to do, because if a policy is adopted suggesting ways to minimize invasive species growing along the trail, then it is incumbent upon us to follow through with this policy. It was suggested to check with the municipalities to see how their maintenance would be involved and come up with a trail policy. Short of that, at least a policy position could be developed and used for public educational and awareness purposes. Environmental stewardship would not only cover the invasive species we don't want on the trail, but also what we want on the trail and how to keep it in its natural state. Research could be done to see if other communities and/or trails have such a policy in place. It is hoped in the long-run that this would mean a reduction in maintenance expense for the member communities and greater volunteer and friends group efforts, as opposed to municipal employees doing the work. Rather than an actual policy that needs to be enforced, this effort could be more of a suggestion of what we'd like on the trail and the communities could choose to include the practices in their trailway maintenance program. Ms. Myers indicated that an Environmental Stewardship theme and garlic mustard pull might be a good option for National Trails Day on June 5th, and that we may be able to partner with Oakland Township's Native Plant Sale. After discussion, it is the consensus of the Commission that this is an excellent idea, a great opportunity to get the friends group going, and should be pursued. This program should also be included in the Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation staff from each community should be involved from the beginning. Ms. Myers offered to help Mr. Miller in this endeavor.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** In addition to the written report, Ms. Myers displayed the plaque she will be presenting to the company who provided hours of in-kind services on our new brochure, map and directional trail signs and asked if we should invite the company to one of our meetings for the presentation or if she should go out to their offices in Troy. It was suggested that a call be placed to the company to ascertain their preference for the presentation. A press release and a photo should also be done.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Mr. Makris reported Trail Manager Myers, Commissioner Miller and a Forester from ITC went out to the trail where their lines are located and determined that a clearance area for vegetative management purposes of 200 feet would not be a problem at this location; because one side is wetland and water and the other side contains willow and elm trees that can be removed, at no cost to the Commission. ITC also offered to remove invasive Wild Buckthorn at the location. Any bare areas can be replaced with low-growing native vegetation. We should have their signed documents and check this week.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** Mr. Schultz reported he is heading south and will see us next spring; everyone wished him a safe trip. Mr. Miller indicated the Trail Summit meeting was informative and it was nice to get together with all trail groups in the area. They do a lot of work on water trails and marketing their trails with an annual theme. Ms. Young stated tickets are

available for the Holly Jolly Folly held the night before the Lighted Christmas Parade – December 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

**MOTION** by Schultz, supported by Young, *Moved*, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:37 p.m. and enter into Executive Session without returning to Regular Session.

Ayes: All      Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEXT MEETING: November 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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KRISTEN MYERS, Trail Manager

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EDWARD PETERS, Trailways Secretary