

LCTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 31, 2006
Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce
MINUTES

Attendance:

Jim Healy, Mike Wilson, Keith Sutherland, John Helbling, Ron McGraw, Dean Barnum, Jan Barnum

Minutes:

The minutes for the March 3, 2006 meeting were approved.

Jim Healy stated that the primary purpose for this meeting was for an update of committee goals, discussions and strategies. This would be a good time for raising directional or cross-over issues.

Status of Goal to “Double Number of Miles of Trails & Get Neighborhood Connections Going.”

Ron McGraw and Roger Flint met with the Cedar Rapids Traffic/Engineering and Safety Departments regarding connectors to the backbone trails systems in our area. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if we could come up with definitions for connections which could be put in place soon and at low cost.

From the discussions they arrived at the following types of connectors:

1 – BIKE LANES would be allowed on arterial streets which:

A - Have speed limits no higher than 30 mph.

B – Do not allow parking.

C – Are wide enough to allow 4 to 6 foot bike lanes without widening the street.

2 – WIDE SIDEWALKS (6 foot minimum) Where speed limits are higher than 30 mph, wide sidewalks would be set back from the curb on one or both sides of new or rebuilt streets.

3 – NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTORS would be established in low speed (30 mph or less) areas. Here there would be a choice for family bike traffic to be on the sidewalks and other bikers to use the streets. Parking would be as it is now. The sidewalks on such routes would have improvements and there would be curb cutting as needed. Tree removal would be at a minimum. Cost would be mostly the new signs since the sidewalk improvements would be considered to be part of the current efforts underway.

Currently bicycle use is allowed on all sidewalks except in the designated “downtown area”. It is hoped that having the city council adopt guidelines for city-wide implementation would reduce the complaints from each affected neighborhood as is the case now. LCTA could help in gaining understanding that it is better to have the non vehicular traffic on routes with proper warning and

directional signs than to have it random. It is expected that there will be more such traffic and we should do what LCTA can to guide people to these routes and make sure they are used correctly.

There is a new traffic plan being readied for adoption by the city council and LCTA needs to be in a position to support the plan. There seems to be no important differences between what the city technical people want and what LCTA wants. They gave several examples of where they plan to implement bike lanes or wide sidewalks in their current plan. Ron showed them where we would like to have initial neighborhood connectors and not only received support, but they also made several good suggestions of how we might improve them.

After discussion by the LCTA Executive Committee, it was decided to leave the "downtown area" as a separate issue. Hopefully the Downtown District will bring up the issue of bicycles on the sidewalks downtown so it can be resolved.

Ron will work with the Trail Planning Committee on identifying specific examples of bike lanes, wide sidewalks, and connectors that are desirable and get them written down. If we identify what we want then they can be put in.

Another issue which needs to be addressed is that the timeline for trail work seems to be pushed out one year later by IDOT. LCTA needs to find a way to work with IDOT to speed the process up. John Helbling will speak with Tom Aller (former Chairman of IDOT) about how to approach them. John will also contact Brian Fagan and possibly the county supervisors keeping in mind that LCTA must have a good working relationship with IDOT. It may be possible to have an IDOT representative come to a LCTA Executive Meeting. John Helbling suggested Lee Benfield as a possibility.

Ron developed a trails planning status chart showing mileage, funding and what is proposed for the next five years. It will be in the next newsletter.

Potential New Board Members: Jim Healy

Jim reported there are two people possibly interested in becoming board members. Geoff Eastburn who has been active in the Boy Scouts and the Indian Creek Nature Center is interested in fundraising. Sue Grant may also be interested and comes from *Fifteen in 5*.

LCTA Website: Jim Healy

The LCTA website needs work and especially needs to be kept up to date. Joe Clark inherited this job and could use some help. Keith Sutherland will work with Amy Reasner on this.

Governmental Support: John Helbling

John reported that Johnson County has not approved their master plan for trails. He will see what he can do to help get it approved.

American Trail Symposium: Jim Healy

Jim reported that the American Trail Symposium will be held in the quad cities. There will be presentations by trail groups and they will present trail supporter awards at this symposium. It would be a good idea for LCTA to have a representative attend the meeting. Keith Sutherland will work with his committee on recognition for supporters.

Support/Volunteer Development: Keith Sutherland

Keith has a committee of four members. He has drafted some goals for the committee and the next objective will be to get comments. The newsletter will be part of this committee. Keith needs ideas for articles and volunteers to write articles. Jim Wing and Diane Handler have been putting out the newsletter.

John Helbling reported that the Highway 100 extension controversy will be addressed at the Linn County Conservation Department Board meeting next week and hopefully progress will be made to resolve the problems.

There was discussion on who should receive the LCTA full board minutes. The minutes will be sent by e-mail to board members and in the future a notice will be sent out to all supporters that the minutes are posted on the LCTA website. We have to make sure the website is improved and up to date first.

Jan and Dean Barnum, Co-Secretaries