

**LCTA Board & Fifteen in 5 Meeting**  
***People's Unitarian Church***  
**July 10, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

**LCTA Board Members:** Joe Clark, Sandy Colton, Ben Dukes, Roger Flint, Jim Healy, Ed Holstrom, Ron McGraw, Steve Nelson, Lynn Ocken, Keith Sutherland, Mike Wilson, Jim Wing.

**Trail Supporters:** Randy Burke, Bill Duffy, Vicky Evans, Phyllis Fleming, Leland Freie, Dave Good, Pat Healy, Brad Mullin

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Jim Healy, President.

**Minutes:** Keith Sutherland

A motion by Ben Dukes, seconded by Roger Flint, to approve the minutes of the June 12 meeting as posted was carried by voice vote.

A motion by Keith Sutherland, seconded by Roger Flint, to distribute the meeting minutes to the full LCTA e-mail list after their approval by the board, was carried by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed Holstrom

Ed Holstrom presented the report, showing assets of \$66,097.81 and liabilities of \$35,000.00. Approximately \$40,000.00 of the assets are in a checking account in anticipation of making a committed payment for segment G of the Cedar River Trail. The report was approved. Ron McGraw will determine the expected timing of the segment G payment, to determine if Ed could invest the money for a better return.

**Program:** There was no program this month.

**Committee Reports:**

**Trail Development:** Ron McGraw

*42<sup>nd</sup> Street Crossing*

Roger Flint presented the plan proposed by LCTA for correcting problems at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street crossing, which is shown in the following drawing.

Roger met with Brian Fagan on June 28, and presented the proposal to him at that time. Mr. Fagan has subsequently been seen at the crossing, taking photos.

In November 2004, discussions with the Traffic Engineering department did not result in any action, since at that time the department was focused on a major re-design of the intersection. On March 15, 2006, another meeting on the issue was held with Dave Elgin, the Cedar Rapids city engineer. He has asked the railroad to participate in discussions of the issue. Besides the safety of the crossing for bicyclists, the city is also

attempting to address the problem that the intersection design requires turns too sharp to be negotiated by large trucks.

The proposal as presented was discussed by the board, and endorsed as the official LCTA position. LCTA advocates this solution as an interim solution to a safety problem that can be implemented short-term while more-comprehensive improvements are planned and funded.

#### *Trail Plan*

Ron plans to add *surface type* and *approved usage* to the trail plan being developed by LCTA. The plan being developed by the Regional Planning Commission (Adam Lindenlaub) will deal only with separated trails, so the LCTA plan will be the only comprehensive trail plan.

#### *Trail Status*

Ron is coordinating closely with the city of Cedar Rapids. Dave Elgin has assigned a person to review our plan and provide cost estimates for the trails in it, with a target date of the end of July. He has also assigned a person to try to connect the Ellis Park Trail to the downtown area.

Ron is adding a trail from the Cedar River Trail to Wickiup Hill, Palo, and Pleasant Creek.

The Cedar Rapids city council approved applying for a grant to fund the Cemar Trail from 20<sup>th</sup> St. to 29<sup>th</sup> St.

The Cedar Rapids city council has requested a plan for the Cedar Bend area that is less costly than the one for which Vision Iowa funds were proposed. To support this planning, Roger Flint is developing a proposal for connect the Sac and Fox trail to the new "Cedar Valley Urban Fishery" trail around the Cedar Bend Lake. A motion by Mike Wilson, seconded by Roger Flint, to send a letter of support for this new trail was approved by voice vote.

The contract for segment G of the Cedar River Trail has been let. Current efforts are to complete the formalities associated with the funding.

Construction of the Cemar Trail is scheduled to start in 2007.

In response to a query, Randy Burke reported that an agreement is being negotiated between Linn County and the Iowa Department of Transportation to allow the county to proceed with property appraisals and acquisitions. Funding for this trail is provided in a federal earmark, with the funding spread over five years. The earliest possible start of construction is in 2007.

#### **Public Awareness & Support:** no report

Jim Healy commented that this committee needs additional support to work on the "marketing" parts of the trail plan.

**Support and Volunteer Development:** Keith Sutherland

LCTA has gained two new trail supporters and received eighteen contributions totaling \$710 in the past month. There are 379 trail supporters that are considered active, of which 186 have made a contribution in the past twelve months.

**Financial Strength:** no report

**Governmental Support:** no report

**Trail Safety & Amenities:** Lynn Ocken

Lynn reported that the committee has been struggling with their charter, and their roles to be primarily pushers instead of doers.

Joe Clark is implementing a system to track comments from trail users. Dave Wolf will identify the common issues and work with the appropriate governmental bodies to resolve them.

Pat Healy met with Dave Kramer about bike racks along the trails. The Parks Department already has a plan; Pat will follow up to understand it.

Bill Duffy contacted Liz Hoskins about the status of developments proposed by the Downtown District for Green Square Park. The Parks Department does not support the proposal, and the Downtown District has not approved the assessments that would be needed to support the proposal. Two of the leaders of downtown development are no longer involved. And the contract for the use of the existing building by Meals on Wheels has been extended for another year. It appears that the proposal will not be implemented soon.

The use of e-mail, blogging, etc., to communicate with supporters was discussed by the board. A possible volunteer, Lisa Fontaine, was identified to help with signage issues.

**Adjournment:**

A motion by Ben Dukes to adjourn was seconded by Vikki Evans and passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Sutherland  
Temporary Substitute Assistant Interim Secretary