

**LCTA Board & Fifteen in 5 Meeting**  
**People's Unitarian Church**  
**August 14, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

**LCTA Board Members:** Dean Barnum, Jan Barnum, Joe Clark, Ben Dukes, Geoff Eastburn, Keith Fletcher, Roger Flint, Jim Healy, Ed Holstrom, Ron McGraw, Lynn Ocken, Tom Pepper, John Wauer, Mike Wilson, Dave Wolf.

**Trail Supporters:** Vicky Evans, Suresh Ganu, Brad Mullin, Brian Fagan, Don Thomas, Bill Duffy, Dave Good, Pat Healy, Lisa Fontaine, Phyllis Fleming, John Bader, Janet Manatt, R. Quetsch, Tom Saxen.

The meeting was called to order by Jim Healy, President.

**Minutes:** Jan Barnum

Minutes for the July meeting taken by Keith Sutherland were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed Holstrom

Ed presented the report showing assets of \$65,523.16 and liabilities of \$35,000.00. The report was approved.

**Opening Remarks:** Jim Healy

Jim congratulated Diane Handler and Jim Wing for a great newsletter.

**New Board Member:** Jim Healy

Jim Healy nominated Liz Hoskins to be on the LCTA Board. The nomination was approved unanimously.

**Comprehensive Planning Process (Board Member and Volunteer Involvement):** Jim Healy

Some committees are short of members. Now is the time for board members who are not presently on a committee to get involved. The Public Awareness and Support Committee will be critical in the future. Jim Healy will work with committee chair persons to put some ideas together for recruiting committee members. Board members discussed ideas on how to get people involved. Supporters can serve on committees without attending board meetings. There may be people in the Hawkeye Bike Club that would be interested. A request for volunteers in the last newsletter had no response. It may be helpful to recruit volunteers for specific tasks instead of for help in general.

**Committee Reports:**

**Trail Development:** Ron McGraw

The first meeting was held for trail planning for the rest of Linn County regarding connecting towns and deciding which routes will be best. The annual REAP

funding meeting was held and there are local trail funding requests from Hiawatha, Robins, Central City, Center Point. More REAP money is going for trails. Twenty million dollars a year is supposed to be distributed. Eleven million will be distributed this year. Ron attended the IOWAY Trails group meeting regarding the connection from Amana to Linn County. Decisions will have to be made on where the trail will be. Johnson County has adopted a trail plan. They are considering an alternate route using Hwy 965 instead of going from Ely to Solon. Connecting Iowa City to Linn County is a top priority. Efforts are being made to convince Johnson County to assume ownership of the Hoover Trail property presently owned by LCTA.

Segment G of the CRT has been rough graded. A comprehensive description needs to be developed for wide sidewalks and bikeways to be presented to the Cedar Rapids City Council. Ron is putting together a plan for getting funding for trails in next year's Cedar Rapids budget. This should include more funding for the CEMAR trail, funding for an underpass under 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, the Lincoln Trail connection, Kirkwood loop, Ellis Park Trail and the Urban Fishing Lake Park connection to the CRT. The underpass under 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. may be the most important project. Most important of all is for the Cedar Rapids city council to put trail funding in the next budget.

Phyllis Fleming said that the River Front group has proposed putting bike lanes on the 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. bridge to be used instead of the sidewalks on each side of the bridge presently designated for the trail. There is a safety issue involved with a sharp turn on one end and the fact that the sidewalks are higher than the street with no guard rail to prevent someone from falling into the street. Various ideas were discussed including putting a guard rail, making the sidewalks wider, etc. LCTA should be involved in this issue. It may be possible to have Richard Luther speak to the Safety and Amenities Committee about the problem.

**Trail Safety & Amenities:** Lynn Ocken

The committee is developing a comprehensive plan for trail safety and amenities. They have met with Dave Kramer, Director of the Cedar Rapids Parks Department, regarding the trail plan, funding and maintenance. They will be meeting with Hiawatha leaders soon to coordinate the plan. It is important to have the plan completed soon so that when funds become available projects can be designated.

Lisa Fontaine, a professor from Iowa State University who specializes in signage issues, will be working closely with Lynn. She explained how the plan will be designed. Volunteers will be needed to provide information to the committee on signage problems, safety problems, maintenance problems, and ideas for improvements needed to make the trails more user friendly. Each volunteer will fill out a form and choose a section of the trail to observe what improvements are needed. Joe Clark will put information on the LCTA website regarding specific information needed and the forms to be filled out. The trails need to be user

friendly for everyone including users from out of town. Ideas are needed for memory donations. Money has already been donated for plenty of benches at this time.

**Governmental Support:** John Helbling not present

Jim Healy stated that LCTA needs to submit requests for federal trail funds to the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce by October 31. A decision will have to be made on whether to send a representative to Washington D.C.

**Public Awareness & Support:** Amy Reasner not present.

Jim Healy will be contacting Amy to help put plan together.

**Volunteer/Supporter Development:** Keith Sutherland not present

Vicky Evans presented the report for Keith. Seventy one contributions in the amount of \$6,625 have been received in the last three months. Twenty two contributions totaling \$1,785 have been received in the last month. There are a total of 379 trail supporters, 193 are overdue making a contribution.

**Financial Strength:** Jon Bogert not present

Jim Healy stated that Jon Bogert plans to attend the trail meeting in Palo. This committee will have to become more active when the comprehensive trail plan is completed.

**Other New & Unfinished Business:**

Ed Holstrom stated he was happy to see that Cedar Rapids will have a Mayor's Bike Ride on Labor Day. Brian Fagan stated that Tom Podzimek worked very hard putting together the plans for the ride to promote trails and a healthy lifestyle.

Tom Neenan stated that the National Trails Symposium to be held in Davenport October 19 to 22 is the largest trail meeting and Iowa is the only state to host the meeting more than once. It was held in Cedar Rapids in 1990. Anyone who wants to attend can register at American Trails.com. ITC will have a booth and LCTA can have material as part of the display. Mike Wilson made a motion which was seconded by Ben Dukes for LCTA to sponsor one person to represent LCTA. The motion passed unanimously.

Dean Barnum said that plans are underway for the next trail map. LCTA ordered 40,000 maps which cost \$4300 last year and they will last till fall. It may be desirable to order 50,000 new ones which will cost around \$7,000. Please Email ideas for sponsors and changes to the map to Dean Barnum.

Joe Clark said that plans should be made soon for a Halloween event and he asked for ideas and comments.

**Jan and Dean Barnum, Co-Secretaries**