

LCTA Board & *Fifteen in 5* Meeting
People's Unitarian Church
September 11, 2006
MINUTES

Attendance:

LCTA Board Members: Dean Barnum, Jan Barnum, Jon Bogert, Joe Clark, Sandy Colton, Ben Dukes, Geoff Eastburn, Roger Flint, Jim Healy, John Helbling, Ed Holstrom, Liz Hoskins, Dave Maresh, Ron McGraw, Brad Mullin, Lynn Ocken, Keith Sutherland. John Wauer, Jim Wing, Dave Wolf.

Trail Supporters: Dan Biechler, Vicky Evans, Steve Hershner, Matt Nagle, Bill Duffy, Pat Healy, Suresh Ganu, Dave Good, Adam Lindenlaub, Tom Neenan.

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

Minutes: Jan Barnum

Minutes for the August 14 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Holstrom

Ed presented the report showing assets of \$66,900 and liabilities of \$35,000. The report was approved.

New Board Member Approval: Jim Healy

Jim nominated Brad Mullin to be a LCTA Board Member. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee Progress Report: Mike Wilson not present

Jim Healy stated that the nominating committee will present the slate of new officers at the October board meeting.

Committee Reports & Discussion:

Trail Development: Ron McGraw

Ron stated that the Hoover Trail route from Cedar Rapids to Ely, on to Solon and North Liberty, has been selected as the preferred route to connect Linn and Johnson counties. Adam Lindenlaub and others are working on the Linn County trail plan. Adam stated there will be a meeting September 26 at 6:00 p.m. at Lowe Park with the Linn County Supervisors and Regional Planning Commission representatives in attendance regarding the plan. Dean Barnum asked if the Linn County plan will be complete in time for routes to be included on the new trail map. There was no clear answer. The next round of funding applications for federal money will be in October. The Cedar Rapids budget will be completed soon and Ron has four or five suggestions for trail funding. He will decide which ones to send on to the city council for approval.

Trail Safety & Amenities: Lynn Ocken

Lynn has met with the Hiawatha and Marion Parks Departments. Their response was positive about the trail plan. The committee has put together a vision statement defining what they would like. They will be working on a list of goals to implement the plan. Professor Lisa Fontaine will help with signage and research regulations regarding signs. The committee needs input from trail users regarding improvements and amenities.

Dave Wolf met with Richard Luther regarding the safety problems on the 16th Ave. bridge. The board members discussed various solutions to the problem including making the sidewalks wider, putting in a barrier or fence next to the sidewalks, or making bike lanes in the street, etc. Adam Lindenlaub pointed out that the Traffic Engineering Department will make the decision on how to solve the problem. LCTA can make suggestions and Adam can put LCTA in touch with the proper person.

Governmental Support: John Helbling

Probably not much will happen regarding funding at the state level until after the election. The Chamber of Commerce federal issues trip to Washington D.C. will be February 12 to 14. Funding priorities should be submitted to them by October. There will be a meeting on September 27 at 9:00 a.m. at the council chamber regarding federal transportation funds. This meeting is open to the public. John Helbling will attend and encourages anyone interested to also attend this meeting.

Public Awareness & Support: Amy Reasner not present

Jim Healy will meet with Amy Reasner, Liz Hoskins, John Helbling and Geoff Eastburn to start putting together a marketing plan for trails which could be a flyer. There is money available out there and a lot of enthusiasm. Projects can be done in small pieces but we also need to sell the big project of a trail system. The Mayor's Bike Ride was a great success and events like that are important but we also need to do some marketing for trails in other ways.

Volunteer/Supporter Development: Keith Sutherland

LCTA needs to budget and plan three months in advance so that articles and information can be put in the newsletter. The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is September 20. Information about the Halloween event should be in the newsletter. Carol Eilers has arranged to have the newsletter printed on glossy paper, address labels put on and mailed, all for just a little more than it previously cost. Keith Sutherland and Steve Nelson met with Dave Elgin about the Dry Creek Trail. There is a proposal to widen the bridge on East Post Road but residents in the area are objecting because they don't want a four lane bridge. At public meetings, usually only negative comments are presented. It would be desirable for trail supporters to attend public meetings and Keith will

send out information on when meetings will be held. Since 2003, there are 100 fewer trail supporters. Keith will send reminders with the fall fund raising letter.

Financial Strength: Jon Bogert

Jon is waiting for the comprehensive trail plan and amenities plan to be completed and then will determine how to approach the funding problems. In the past state and local funding has been the main source of money. Other options will be considered including local corporations, etc.

Other New & Unfinished Business:

National Trail Symposium: Jim Healy

LCTA voted to support a person to attend the symposium. The finances could possibly be split between those who attend. There will be many workshops and they will be posted on the LCTA website. Anyone interested in attending please email Jim Healy or go to website American Trails.org. Jim will send out an email. This is the largest trail meeting in the U.S. The Iowa Trails Council will have a booth and will appreciate help. The meeting is in Davenport on October 19 to 22.

Nominating Committee: Mike Wilson not present

John Wauer reported that some officer nominees have a conflict with the present meeting time on the second Monday of each month. By a show of hands, no one present had a conflict with the fourth Monday or the second Tuesday. If anyone has a conflict with either of those days, please email Mike Wilson.

Ron McGraw stated he has copies of the *Fifteen in 5* trails plan.

Matt Nagle, Parks & Recreation Board, Mt Vernon: Plans are continuing for a trail from Mt. Vernon to Cedar Rapids. The trails group will be meeting with land owners and asking the Mt. Vernon city council to approve their plans. The trail will be mainly on the Alliant Energy right of way. Public opinion has changed over the years and this trail is not expected to be controversial like it was before. Ron McGraw made a motion for LCTA to endorse the name change from Interurban Trail to Lincoln Trail. The motion was seconded by Sandy Colton and passed unanimously.

Halloween Event: Joe Clark

The Halloween event will be held on October 29 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Cedar Lake Park. Joe will send information by email to the all trail supporters. He will make a funding request at the next board meeting. He hopes to put dates of events on the LCTA website.

Jan and Dean Barnum, Co-Secretaries