

Linn County Trails Association

Board & Fifteen in 5 Meeting

Tuesday July 8, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Linn County Trail Association's Board of Directors was held on Tuesday July 8, 2008 at the People's Unitarian Church. A quorum was present which included the following:

LCTA Board Members:

Brad Mullin (Secretary)	Geoff Eastburn	Ron McGraw	Mike Wilson	Roger Flint
Joe Clark	Randy Burke	Tom Podzimek	Jon Wauer	Vicky Evans
Ben Dukes	Tom Peffer	Dean Barnum	Dennis Goemaat	
Dan Biechler	Keith Sutherland	Sandy Colton		
Phyllis Fleming	Jim Healy	Pat Healy		

Guests:

Jan Barnum Chad Debeers

Call to Order:

Jim Healy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the June meeting were circulated electronically. There was one correction. The pads and plaques for the New Bohemia bike project have not been funded. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Dean Barnum motioned to dispense the treasurer's report for this month in Ed's absence.

New Business:

1. June 2008 Flood Recovery

A. There was discussion of LCTA's role in the upcoming flood recovery plans for Linn County and the City of Cedar Rapids. There was consensus that it may be necessary to remind about on going projects and potential new ones. Tom Podzimek suggested that the LCTA may be able to aid in the maintenance of city trails, such as in mowing, since resources are diverted to the recovery effort.

B. Tom Peffer recommended that an ad hoc committee be established to address flood recovery efforts and identify potential hazard mitigation projects.

C. Randy Burke emphasized the importance of identifying and documenting damages, especially in the form of pictures. A compiled list would be forwarded to the claims adjuster who will pass it on to FEMA. The deadline for a final list is September 12, 2008.

2. Proposed Cedar River Trail Projects:

Dean Barnum presented a proposed list of trail projects in the following handout:

Proposed Cedar River Trail Projects to be considered by the LCTA Board

As there is a serious time and finance problem due to the recent flood, I propose that LCTA consider the following Cedar River Trail projects and if practical, accept responsibility for their completion, and finance them as required.

- 1. Blairs Ferry Road Trail Crossing** – Install a “Walkers and Bikers have the Right of Way on Green” sign on Center Point Road on the north side facing Blairs Ferry Road, for southbound automobile traffic. On Blairs Ferry Road install a “No Right Turn on Red side on the south side, for eastbound automobile traffic. Paint the crosswalk. Finance by Hiawatha and Cedar Rapids ASAP.
- 2. 42nd Street Trail Crossing** – This project was proposed several years ago by LCTA. No action has been taken. This crossing is, and always has been, a safety hazard. Obtain authorization from the railroad company and maybe name the crossing “Crandic Crossing” if this what it taken to get their approval. Then move the stop signs back toward Center Point Road. Then build the trail crossing. Consider Pro Bono design work by one of the LCTA board members. Finance trail crossing by Cedar Rapids and LCTA, sign work by Cedar Rapids. Determine what it will take to get this job done ASAP.
- 3. 1st Avenue Trail Crossing** – This trail crossing is dangerous and an irritation to both motorists and street crossers. I propose the crossing lighting be changed from yellow to red and sensor wiring on each side of 1st Avenue be changed to a push button crossing and that “Walk” lights be installed on each side of 1st Avenue. I believe this would a low cost project. City finance with possible LCTA support ASAP.
- 4. 7th Avenue Rail Crossing** - Work with railroad to improve the rail crossing. Maybe call it “Union Pacific Crossing” or something more imaginative. Finance railroad.
- 5. 7th Avenue Signage** - Mark this section of the trail at all street crossings all the way to the river for both automobiles (at least one is missing) and bikers. Finance by Cedar Rapids and possibly LCTA.
- 6. 16th Avenue Bridge Crossing** – Going south there is a very sharp turn to the right to enter the bridge. This scares many people. Accordingly, many people cross 16th Avenue and face bike traffic from the south. On the north side of the bridge approach , the trail stop sign is missing as a result of the flood. When the trail “Stop” sign is replaced, move it back about twelve feet. The resulting open space can then be paved. This will allow for a gentle turn to the right and onto the bridge. This is a minimal effort and should be financed by Cedar Rapids as fill work ASAP.
- 7. Trail Railroad Bridge Underpass south of Sokol Park** – This underpass is under water at least two times a year. As far as I know, this is the only section of the American Discovery Trail that effectively can be a roadblock. I believe this is an embarrassment to Cedar Rapids as there is currently no practical bypass around this low area. In addition, quite a long section of the trail approaching the bridge and directly under it, needs major repair as a result of the recent flood. I propose this section of the trail be abandoned. I further propose that from a point before the trail drops of the levy, a new trail be built drifting off to the right on city property and rising to the level of the rail crossing and continue on to meet up with the existing trail. This will permanently resolve the high water and flood problems. Consider Pro Bono design work by one of the LCTA board members. Finance

Cedar Rapids with possible LCTA support. The trail is closed. Get an official estimate as to what it will take to get this job completed ASAP.

8. Trail Mileage Signs – The current mileage signs face the trail and are not clearly visible to bicycle riders from either direction. I propose the for every mileage post two more mileage signs be made and installed on each side of the existing posts. Finance by Cedar Rapids an/or LCTA.

9. “Trail” Signs – The signs with the word “Trail”, with or without arrows, on them should be made three to four times as large to improve readability. Finance by Cedar Rapids and LCTA.

Discussion:

A. Dean volunteered to approach the city of Cedar Rapids and City of Hiawatha traffic engineering departments about the traffic light at Blairsferry Road and Center Point Road.

B, It was agreed the LCTA should work towards a shared goal rather than a specific solution to a trail related problem.

C. Other items listed would be forwarded to the Trails Safety committee for consideration.

3. Nominating Committee:

The nominating committee for the vice president vacancy has met once, and has a list of prospective candidates.

Reports of Standing Committees:

1. Trail Development:

a. Randy Burke reported that there were fifteen sites on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail that were identified for repair and would be funded by FEMA.

2. Government Support (John Helbling)

a. No Report

3. Public Awareness and Support (Amy Reasner):

a. No Report

4. Trail Maintenance and Safety:

a. No Report

5. Support/ Volunteer Development (Keith Sutherland)

a. Keith reported that the number of members has declined by 10% in last two years. There are currently 343 active supporters to the LCTA.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Brad Mullin/Secretary



Linn County Trails Association

CALENDAR EVENTS

August/September 2008



LCTA Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 12, 7:00pm
People's Church
700 3rd. Ave. NE.

LCTA Executive Board Meeting

Friday, August 29 , 12:00pm
Anderson-Bogert Engineers and Surveyors Inc.
4001 River Ridge Drive N.E.

LCTA Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, 7:00pm
People's Church
700 3rd. Ave. NE.

LCTA Executive Board Meeting

Friday, September 26 , 12:00pm
Anderson-Bogert Engineers and Surveyors Inc.
4001 River Ridge Drive N.E.