

Recreation Trail Advocates Meeting  
April 6, 2009  
Paparazzi's Restaurant 7:00 PM

Present: Bruce Brown, Cora Lynn Green, George M. Burrier, Jr., Mike Rucker, Elaine Hopkins, Ken Kiley, Sandra Burrier, Joyce Blumenshine, Dave Pittman, John Mullen

February minutes will be presented at May 4 meeting for approval.

No Treasurer's Report was available. Bruce submitted a check for \$32.00 from the donation jar the night of March 2 meeting with local candidates.

Old Business:

There are no mileage markers on the posts on the East Peoria trail. George Burrier will check with Mike Pula and Adam Reiger about getting numbers put on.

RTA decided to decline the donation of a vacant lot at 1101 N.E. Rock Island Avenue, Peoria. Various other agencies have also declined accepting this piece of property. Dave Pittman made a motion that George Burrier contact Jeremy Heiple, the donor's attorney, to let him know of the decision. Joyce Blumenshine seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Roger John was not at the meeting to give a status report on the Hanna City rail-to-trail project. It is known that Union Pacific (UP) is pulling up the rail but leaving the ties. It is not known if the IDNR will come through with the money, but all municipalities are in agreement on wanting the trail. They will have to buy property rights from U P. UP is waiting for an appraisal and offer from IDNR.

Dave Pittman asked if we could get the minutes of the TriCounty Greenways Task Force meeting accessible through a link on our website. He felt it would be helpful if we more closely knew what each group was doing. George Burrier will contact Matt Allen to see if a link would be possible to their minutes on our website. This motion was seconded by Ken Kiley and approved unanimously.

New Business:

Dave Pittman stressed the importance of the RTA group getting back to its role of advocacy for the trail despite the plans of other private parties to move the trail along. With that in mind he made the following motion. At the May 4 meeting the group should draw up a specific timeline for going to Peoria and Peoria Heights asking them to submit a letter to the Surface Transportation Board requesting it to rail bank the Kellar Branch. Bruce Brown seconded this. The motion carried with one no vote.

George mentioned that Pat Lewis, Manager of Springdale Cemetery, was terminated. Pat was a loyal supporter of the trail.

David urged the group to start making suggestions for trail improvements such as benches and kiosks along the trail with the assumption that it will be built. George will bring a kiosk plan to the May meeting for examination. There was discussion for a date for clean up along the trail. The date will be Saturday, May 16, at 9 AM on the Peoria Heights section. David will handle the press releases and Bruce will work with Mayor Allen. A dumpster at Peoria Heights library may be needed.

John Mullen in his new role as Chief Naturalist of Forest Park Nature Center stressed the need for grass root support to maintain the many trails presently owned by the Peoria Park District. We talked about establishing a committee to work with the Peoria Park District for both maintenance and promotion of the trails. Bruce and Mike offered to help John on the committee.

Bike to Work Week will be May 11-15. David is attempting to coordinate the event with Methodist, Proctor and OSF hospitals.

An agreement has been reached between Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant and the city of East Peoria to extend the trail all the way to the Bob Michael Bridge. The restaurant owns property that the trail will pass through.

Mike Rucker talked about the work that has been done so far to establish a trail in Lakeview Wilds, the 12-acre woodlands between Lakeview Museum and Metro Center. The group is trying to obtain easement concessions from Schnuck's Grocery Store and the Savannah apartment complex in that area. Because 3 bridges will need to be built over the stream in the area, the group is asking the park district to come up with \$113,000 for the initial first stage. He also announced that there will be **Clean-up of Lakeview Wilds on Sunday, April 19, from 10:00 to 2:00**

**2009 dues of \$10.00 are now due. Please send in your payment to Michol Pula, 112 Hillside Court, Dunlap, IL 61525.**

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 4 at Paparazzi's Restaurant in Peoria Heights at 7 PM.**

**Minutes submitted by Cora Lynn Green and George Burrier**