

Recreation Trail Advocates Meeting
July 13, 2009
Paparazzi's Restaurant 7:00 PM

Present: Bruce Brown, Cora Lynn Green, George M. Burrier, Jr., Elaine and Brianne Hopkins, Ken Kiley, Sandra Burrier, Joyce Blumenshine, Dave Pittman, Fran Kiley, Steve Jaeger, Mike Pula, John Chambers, Joe and Christine Stowell, Sheldon Schafer, Tim O'Hanlon

Minutes of the June 1, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as written.
Motion by Dave Pittman, seconded by Ken Kiley

Treasurer's Report as presented by treasurer, Mike Pula, was unanimously approved. Motion by Cora Lynn Green, seconded by Dave Pittman

Old Business:

Mike Pula reported on clean up of Rock Island Trail on July 11. Three people showed up to help and the work consisted mainly of painting posts. A summer seasonal crew of 6 to 12 workman under the guidance of DNR will be working on brush removal and trail maintenance in the future. Mike would still like to schedule other workdays. The dates of July 25 and August 22 were picked.

Operating protocols for both Central Illinois Railroad and Pioneer Industrial Railway have been agreed upon. The railroads have agreed to use the western connection thus freeing up the Kellar Branch to be used as a trail. This will be presented to the Peoria City Council for approval at their meeting on Tuesday, July 14. Councilmen Jacobs and Spain will be absent but will be on telephone conference line. After that, approval will still have to be obtained from the Surface Transportation Board. There is still a great amount that is not known about the agreement between the "Kellar Branch Corridor Corporation" and the railroads. Illinois Department of Transportation is requiring an appraisal, title search, and a survey requirement is also being required even though there was a prior appraisal and title search.

Beginning with the meeting of October 5, RTA meetings will be held at Safety Town. Someone will need to get the key and the security code for entrance into the building from the Peoria Park District. Dave Pittman said he would take care of the key and security code for the October meeting. Cora Lynn has offered to be a back up for this task. Steve Jaeger offered Heartland Partnership as a back up meeting place.

Re-publication of the trail pamphlet will be postponed until developments of the Kellar Branch are played out. George B. asked everyone present to look over the existing pamphlet for typographical errors and suggest any changes needed.

The FonDuLac Park District (FPD) has opened the tunnel on the East Peoria/Morton Trail. Sheldon reported that the trail is still blocked off before the bike bridge near the Michel Bridge. The FPD is waiting for state funding to finish the trail.

George Burrier reported on his inability to get artists to repair or construct a new CB&Q RR sign for the Wyoming depot. David made a motion that up to \$2000 be allocated to replicate a new sign. Bruce Brown seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. George will follow through to get the sign made.

New Business:

George Burrier is looking for marketing assistance from ICC and the Recreation and Tourism Administration of WIU to begin promoting the tourism possibilities of the future connection of all the trails in this area from the Constitution Trail and future Rt. 66 trail to the east to the I&M Canal, Hennepin Canal and the Grand Illinois Trail to the north.

Dave Pittman talked to the Fondulac Park District about a family ride or Mayor's ride, promoting the trail in E. Peoria. It probably will not take place this fall but he will start planning this event for the spring. It was suggested to contact the Red Cross to see if they might be a co-sponsor.

Dave also reported that he has been unsuccessful in contacting Steve Shostrum about printing additional bumper stickers. Joe Stowell offered to look into producing 500 more bumper stickers if the group thinks it is necessary. Sheldon thought the new style cars don't lend themselves to displaying bumper stickers and would not be that popular. Convey your thoughts to Dave/Joe about ordering more stickers.

George B. showed pictures of the type of bench that the UAW has offered to construct to put on the trail between Pioneer Parkway and Rt. 6. The UAW would donate 4 of these benches.

A suggestion was made to talk to PPD about what the official name would be of the Kellar Branch and trail section between Pioneer Park and Alta.

Sheldon Shafer discussed the rebuilding of "the solar system" which will be relocated beginning at the new museum on the river and extending out along the Rock Island Trail. There would be 6 to 8 planets along the trail.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 3 at Paparazzi's Restaurant at 7 PM.