



Rochester Hills

Minutes

Leisure Activities Committee

1000 Rochester Hills
Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
(248) 656-4660
Home Page:
www.rochesterhills.org

Saran Ahluwalia, John Dalton, Jim Duistermars, Mike Hartner, Brenton Kinker, Kelley Kosuda, Linda Raschke, Steven Swann, Suzanne White

Monday, November 15, 2004

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

Draft

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Duistermars called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jim Duistermars, Steven Swann and Suzanne White

Absent: John Dalton and Linda Raschke

Non-Voting Members Present: Mike Hartner and Brenton Kinker

Non-Voting Members Absent: Saran Ahluwalia and Kelley Kosuda

Others Present: none

Committee Members Raschke and Kosuda previous notice that they would be unable to attend and asked to be excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None were presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Duistermars distributed the Supplemental Information for Legistar File 2004-1056 regarding a Resolution of Support for the City of Pontiac's Grant Application for the Clinton River Trail Pedestrian Bridge, which was discussed under Any Other Business.

Ms. White shared a newspaper article from the Detroit Free Press dated November 15, 2004 that stated James Faycurry and Norman Cohen, co-owners of Troy-based Dutton Partners LLC, made a \$25,000 donation to the Village of Oxford for improvements to the Polly Ann Trail development.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2004-0137

Discuss Clinton River Trail Bridge and Intersection Improvement Project

Mr. Hartner briefly recapped the project which includes replacing two bridges, adding a pedestrian safety island at Avon and Livernois Roads and making improvements to every major intersection in Rochester Hills for trail users. It has been on-going for almost three (3) years. The low bid will be presented to City Council on November 17, 2004 for approval. Project completion date is July 1, 2005 with late fines built into the contract.

Discussed**2004-0268**

Discuss Clinton River Trail Surfacing & Survey

Attachments: Update & Survey Form - Parks Dept.pdf; Survey Results - Parks Dept dtd 6-18-04.pdf; Trail Surface Survey Form - FCRT 032204.pdf; Survey Results - FCRT 11-04.pdf

Mr. Hartner explained that the Committee will need to make a decision on the City's portion of the trail surface when funding becomes available. The intersection improvements will include new pavement of up to 80 feet in each direction of the intersection. The City is waiting to hear if the Transportation Bill that has been stalled in Congress will be re-authorized.

The Friends of the Clinton River Trail (FCRT) developed a survey for their web site that resulted in 395 responses. The same survey was used in the Spring 2004 Hills Herald quarterly newsletter to 26,000 homes in the City; only fifty-two (52) responses were received.

The survey listed three (3) choices for Rochester Hill's portion of the trail surface, which are:

- 1. Crushed Fines which uses Limestone*
- 2. Asphalt*
- 3. Stabilized Crushed Stone which uses Limestone but not as dusty*

The Committee received the survey results in this meeting packet.

Mr. Dan Keifer and Mr. Tim Gauthier, representing the Friends of the Clinton River Trail (FCRT), explained the survey results which included the following highlights:

** The survey revealed useful information and comments in terms of understanding how people relate to the surface of the trail.*

** FCRT developed the survey as a part of their 2004 objectives in order to provide information to the City when the time comes to select the best type of surface.*

** The survey was "Internet based" and not restricted to residents of the City.*

** The Clinton River Trail (CRT) is considered a "passive" non-challenging trail by mountain bikers.*

** Of the three (3) surface choices, voters were given two (2) votes: a first (1st) place vote and a second (2nd) place vote.*

** The survey results did not yield a "clear winner" for a surface choice, but showed that there are people who favor a hard surface and people who favor a softer surface.*

** The Committee should also consider how the CRT fits into the community. It has a different "trail setting" than the Paint Creek Trail (PCT).*

** The CRT has five (5) major road intersections versus only one (1) for PCT. Therefore, CRT will be a connection for many more people, businesses and neighborhoods.*

** The FCRT survey results of 395 respondents do not include the 52 respondents from Hills Herald.*

Mr. Hartner also made the following comments:

- * *The CRT, with its major road crossings, will be a link to more neighborhoods and businesses which will be an "added amenity" to the City's current bike path system.*
- * *Although there is no way to count the users, the City's current bike path system is the biggest, single-used recreation facility.*
- * *Snow plowing for the current bike paths is done through the current bike path millage which is a separate fund.*
- * *The "life cycle costs" for the trail surface are being researched and that information will be forth coming.*
- * *The Department of Nature Resources (DNR) Trust Fund is another option for a funding source.*
- * *It is estimated that the cost to surface the four and one-half (4 1/2) miles of trail will be about \$350,000 to \$450,000.*

Mr. Keifer mentioned that the trail will generate local and regional tourism for the City as the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy group hosts an annual, state-wide, week-long trail ride that includes about 600 to 800 cyclists. They are currently looking at a trail route for July 2005 which would include the City's part of the CRT.

Chairperson Duistermars thanked the FCRT for the hard work they have done with this project.

Mr. Keifer and Mr. Gauthier offered the FCRT's assistance in the future as the Committee may need.

Mr. Hartner also acknowledged the tremendous effort from the FCRT regarding this project.

Discussed

2004-0269

Update on Parks Projects

Attachments: 2004 Parks Calendar.pdf; 2004 Velodrome Schedule.pdf

Mr. Hartner gave a brief update on various park projects. The projects have been funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under compliance with the American Disabilities Act:

- * *A new double vault toilet with an asphalt pathway has been installed between the Clinton River Trail and Veteran's Memorial Point.*
- * *An asphalt path has been installed from the Yates parking lot leading to the Clinton River.*
- * *A single vault toilet with an asphalt pathway has been installed to connect the sledding hill to the Hill Top Shelter at Bloomer Park.*

Currently, the Spencer Park Beach House is fifty percent (50%) constructed and will be completed by the end of the year.

Closed

NEW BUSINESS

None was presented.

YOUTH COMMENTS

None were presented.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2004-1056

Resolution of Support - City of Pontiac's Grant Application for Engineering Evaluation and Recommendations for a Clinton River Trail Pedestrian Bridge

Attachments: Agenda Summary.pdf; Email Keifer 111004.pdf; Letter Keifer 110804.pdf; Letter MMBA 111004.pdf; LAC Resolution.pdf; 1056 Resolution.pdf

Mr. Dan Keifer, *Friends of the Clinton River Trail, 719 Fieldstone Dr.*, stated that the trail crosses five (5) cities, noting the last two (2) cities are Sylvan Lake and Pontiac to the west. **Mr. Keifer** reviewed the proposed Telegraph crossing noting the following points:

- * *When the Master Plan was developed last year and approved to current road standards, it proposed an "at grade" crossing for the trail in two stages: one stage would be where a trail-user would activate a light that would stop traffic going northbound to get to the middle of Telegraph Rd; however the trail user would have to find an opening in traffic to get across southbound Telegraph.*
- * *After further discussions it was determined that trail users would not be able to cross Telegraph Road safely with the speed and volume of traffic.*
- * *MDOT is in the process of a major reconstruction of that section of Telegraph Rd to possibly be completed in 2005 or 2006.*
- * *The group began working on this issue last spring with the goal to create a "grade separating" crossing which will most likely be a pedestrian bridge, much like is used now to get the trail across I-75 in Auburn Hills.*
- * *A support letter is being requested by the City of Pontiac showing support for the Pontiac in applying for a grant to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, for the Greenways Initiative Program, to fund an engineering study as to how to create a pedestrian only bridge crossing on Telegraph Road just north of Orchard Lake Road.*
- * *The engineering study is necessary because of the magnitude of the project, the number of buildings located in the area and to determine how the bridge approaches can be constructed on each side of Telegraph Road.*
- * *The Friends of the Clinton River Trail have provided its letter of support and are requesting the City of Rochester Hills do the same.*

A motion was made by White, seconded by Swann, that this matter be Recommended for Approval to the City Council.

Whereas, a safe, trail user-friendly crossing at Telegraph Road is vital to the realization of the Clinton River Trail as the very hub of Oakland County's emerging trailways network; and

Whereas, without a safe trail-road interface here, Telegraph Road will be a barrier and deterrent to use of the trail, thus diminishing the trail's use and reducing the potential that it has to revitalize Pontiac's downtown city center and provide high-quality recreation in a densely populated urban region and connect communities via non-motorized access throughout a large portion of the metropolitan Detroit area; and

Whereas, the need to evaluate a pedestrian-only bridge at the Telegraph Road crossing is the result of a significant effort on the part of trail/highway stakeholders to find a suitable alternative for the trail-road interface; and

Whereas, beginning in February of this year, a series of meetings known as the "Clinton River Trail Telegraph Road Crossing Study group" were held to explore alternatives; and

Whereas, MDOT staff for the Oakland Service Center determined that the at-grade crossing that was proposed in the Clinton River Trail Master Plan (funded by a Greenway Initiative pre-development grant in 2003) was unacceptable from a pedestrian safety point of view; and

Whereas, the work to be funded by this grant application will provide vital engineering analysis and cost estimates that are essential for final decisions and specifications for an optimal Telegraph Road crossing and is a prerequisite to gaining the necessary stakeholder buy-in and funding sources in order for a project of this magnitude to be undertaken.

Be It Resolved that the Rochester Hills Leisure Activities Committee hereby recommends that the Rochester Hills City Council issue a Resolution of Support to the City of Pontiac, Michigan, for its grant application to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan regarding the Clinton River Trail to assist with engineering evaluation and recommendations for a pedestrian bridge to span the Clinton River Trail across Telegraph Road on the City's west side.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Swann and White

Absent: Dalton and Raschke

NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, December 20, 2004 - 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Duistermars adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Minutes prepared by Denise Mertz.

Minutes were approved as presented/amended at the _____, 2005 Regular Leisure Activities Committee Meeting.