

## 1. CALL TO ORDER (4:05 p.m.)

## 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Barkalow (4:15 p.m.), Billings, Brandt, Daubs, Kehrt, Neilly, Scott, Staashelm, Thayer

Guests: Craig Rairdin

## 3. MINUTES

- a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – May 28, 2018  
Motion by Brandt, seconded by Neilly, to approve the minutes.  
All 'Ayes', minutes approved.

## 4. TRAIL HEAD GOALS

Billings noted that she had received correspondence asking for information to be posted on the trails noting proper trail etiquette such as keeping dogs on a leash or staying to the right and passing on the left. The Committee then discussed whether etiquette would be better to be on a standalone sign, or to be incorporated into a kiosk with additional trail/park related items. Billings noted that the Master Trails Plan identifies 'trailheads' on the map and suggested consideration be given to Waldo's Rock Park, Boyson Trail Head, Hanna Park, Thomas Park, and City Square Park. The Committee discussed and recommended to not have a kiosk placed in City Square Park. The Committee discussed the desire to have trail/park etiquette on the kiosks and also a map of the trail/park system. They went on to discuss the potential of having informational items pertaining to that specific park or other City events and ended discussion with an understanding that the content would be dependent on the Parks Department's/Board's desire/ability to provide a certain level of information and the maintenance level that is involved with updating information in a timely fashion.

## 5. LAMBA TRAIL UPDATE

Kehrt provided the Committee with a map of the existing and proposed single track trails just off the Boyson Trail between 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Boyson Road. Kehrt explained that the trail that has been built as more of a beginner level trail, so it is pretty flat. The second trail that he identified was bid and will be constructed (hopefully) this Fall and will be a more advanced skill level. These are being constructed using local funds from the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (LAMBA) from donations and member contributions. Kehrt also mentioned a possible connector trail between the two other trails, but that has not been fully vetted or scheduled for construction.

## 6. STREET IDENTIFICATION AT CROSSINGS

Billings informed the Committee that while attending the last Linn County Trails Association meeting, a member suggested having street identification signs on the Grant Wood Trail to help trail users familiarize themselves with their location. Billings also noted that portion of the Grant Wood Trail that was Federally funded (Hwy 13 to 35<sup>th</sup> St) has trail size stop signs, but

those signs were missed with the construction of the City funded trail from the Marriott to 35<sup>th</sup> Street. The Committee felt that the street identification signs would be valuable, especially for tourists. They were less inclined to see a need for the stop signs as there is not a true requirement to have them in place. The Committee discussed the cost of installing such signs, understanding that there was not a budget item identified for these yet.

## 7. TRAIL PROGRESS UPDATE

- a. Grant Wood Trail: completed, waiting for IDOT audit and project closeout.
- b. Indian Creek Trail: Staff have been in continued discussions with a private property owner north of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The engineering consultant is in the process of preliminary design and preparing the environmental reports needed for NEPA clearance.
- c. CeMar Trail: The demolition for the former railroad bridge over Marion Boulevard has been let through the IDOT, but the IDOT has allowed the contractor to start the project as late as August 2020 (could begin sooner at the discretion of the contractor). The City Council has identified Cara Briggs Farmer as the preferred artist to design the gateway feature that will accompany the pedestrian trail bridge over Marion Boulevard. The Selection Committee has identified a preferred final design and hopes to bring it to the City Council in September. Staff continues to work with the property owner south of Highway 100. Staff anticipates bidding some segments of the trail in January with construction of those segments anticipated beginning in 2020.
- d. MISD SRTS Trail (Wellmark Foundation Grant): Engineering staff has looked at preliminary design but are waiting for full ownership of the former railroad right-of-way (discussed at previous BPAC Meeting).

## 8. OTHER/INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS.

- a. Mayors Bike Ride (September 2<sup>nd</sup>): Billings informed the Committee of the upcoming ride hosted by the Linn County Trails Association.
- b. CMPO Long Range Transportation Plan Safe Routes to Schools Applications: Billings informed the Committee that like the competitive process for Federal trails and roads funds for the Metro area, the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board has allocated some funds for Safe Routes to Schools projects within 2 miles of a K-8 school. Billings noted that the City of Marion will be submitting applications for Linn Mar along Alburnett Road, for MISD Trail identified in their SRTS Plan, and a separate application for sidewalk gaps within ½ mile of the K-8 schools. These are not an application for funding, but rather to be scored/ranked against other projects in the Metro area to have an idea of what projects would be better to apply for.
- c. KCRG bike accident news story / Letter regarding bike lane maintenance: Billings noted that she was asked to be on KCRG recently regarding a story they were doing on a bike accident regarding a biker that potentially hit a pothole or crack in N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street in front of Linn-Mar. The airing of this story prompted a citizen to write a letter to staff addressing the condition of the bike lanes in Marion noting that some sections had potholes, debris, or sand. Billings informed the Committee that the Public Service does maintain the streets with bikelanes at a higher rate/standard because those streets receive more traffic and are considered a priority street. Also, if there is an accident, please report the pothole to the Public Service Department and the accident to Police to be properly documented.
- d. Unleashed animals on the trails: Billings informed the Committee that she had received a number of complaints via email or in person regarding dog owners with their unleashed dogs on the Grant Wood Trail (most frequently east of 35<sup>th</sup> Street). She noted that the Police recommend calling their non-emergency number when you see the dogs off a

leash so they can address the active situation. Staashelm also handed out draft signage that would be placed at key locations that indicate all pets must be on a leash.

- e. Iowa Trails Summit: Billings informed the Committee of the upcoming Iowa Trails Summit in Pella (Central College) on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

9. ADJOURN.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Scott, Secretary