

Bike Path Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

10/05/13 Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Bike Path Ad Hoc Committee was called to order on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. at the United Church of Christ in Shabbona IL. The following committee members/ advisors were present:

Dan Nolan
Jerry Foster
Marc Cinnamon
Wendy Schnorr
Linda Novotny
Curt Foster
Kurt Hermann
Brian Dallas
Frank Ottengheime
Steve Butchel
Al Aspengren
Allison Kidd Probst

Additions to the Agenda: None

Citizen's Addressing the Board: None

Approval of Minutes from , 2013 Meeting: Wendy Schnorr motioned to approve the minutes. Marc Cinnamon seconded. All in favor Aye. Motion carried.

Steve Butchel Executive Director Trails for Illinois: Mr. Butchel discussed the proposed route and the strength and weaknesses. He discussed the possible issues of going through the state park and the issue of hunting. It is possible to be done. Steve Butchel asked about people visiting the state park and bringing business to the town. He asked if a list has been compiled of financial sources. Dan asked him for help in that direction. DNR is a good resource. The federal programs are harder to get money from. Most of it goes to larger areas and would need to have environmental reports etc. This could take years. The DNR is somewhat better but has been some time since they funded a bikeway. By November he anticipates there will be more bikeway money available through the DNR and could lead to considerable cost savings. They have two programs one is recreational trails program. Both programs favor smaller projects. The grant is typically limited to \$250,000.00. There is no limit for land acquisition. There has been talk about an easement option rather than a land purchase deal. Mr. Butchel recommended to try easement option first. He recommended having meetings with the landowners first and ask George Bellovics to attend. He could put their minds at ease and can answer the questions at once. He recommended naming it Timberwolf Trail to promote the pride in the community. Mr. Butchel also talked about putting mile markers with the mascot on it. This may also promote the schools/ students to help with maintenance. He also talked about promoting this as a completion of over 11 miles of trails as

an addition to the current trails. Mr. Butchel recommended signage to help direct people from the park to the town. Good signage is key to success. He recommended using George Bellovics as a resource.

Al Aspengren asked about trailheads and if a large one is needed. Steve Butchel said it is important to put the trailhead where you want people to end up. He doesn't think a large parking area is needed. Weekend bicyclist can use the school parking lots. He also recommended doing a bicycle ride as a fundraiser.

Jerry Foster proposed some future extensions: A direct extension along the east side of the Lovering property. This would provide for future opportunities if other development arise. The second is a connection to the assisted living and nursing home.

Steve Butchel also said to ask George Bellovics if a property owner grants an easement if this can be used as in kind for grant purposes.

Dan Nolan asked if endorsements from other organizations are they important in the grant process. They can help in tie situations. He recommended inviting Kishwaukee Hospital to a meeting to discuss public health and how this path will help.

Linda Novotny asked if there is money in the grant for signs and instead use other donations for publicity purposes. Steve Butchel says you can use DNR grant money towards maps. For this type of money you would need to speak to Amy Madigan in Springfield.

Dan Nolan asked about local participation. Mr. Butchel said that in Effingham county is a good example. They organize events downtown to get the town involved. Organize events to promote the idea to the village. Provide large maps for the public to view at the events.

Jerry Foster mentioned getting in front of the land owners, corporate donors, and organizing an event to involve the community as priorities that need to be done immediately.

Curt Foster asked what type of money should be applied for. Put together as detailed a scope as possible to estimate the cost and decide how much money is needed. Mr. Butchel estimated it at \$200,000 per mile.

Jerry Foster would like Jack Pizzo to come to the next meeting. He is an ecologist who could help with the concerns of landscaping and maintenance.

ComEd has given permission to run the path in front of their substation but they are asking for details on the path.

Dan Nolan also passed out a list from Jim Johnson on some proposed ideas and changes to be discussed at the next meeting. A 501c3 cannot handle the grant process so a municipal agency possibly the township would be better.

Brian Dallas also had input from an ADA accessibility which was handed out to discuss at the next meeting.

Americantrails.org is a good place for ADA compliance.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m. Motioned by Charlie Foster, seconded by Marc Cinnamon.

The next meeting will be on November 9, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the United Church of Christ.

Meeting Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee submitted by Allison Kidd Probst.

/s/ _____ October 5, 2013