

The regular meeting of the Board of Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 5:46 p.m. in their office located at 13300 Fifteen Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan.

PRESENT: Commissioner Eric Tobin, Chairman
Commissioner Eric Johnson, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Scott Brown, Member
Commissioner Hugh Coward, Member
Commissioner Christopher Vreeland, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk
General Public

Chairman Tobin called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 5:46 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the March 2, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.

CALHOUN COUNTY TRAILWAY DISCUSSION

Mr. Tom Garnett, Calhoun County Trailway Alliance (CCTA), provided an update on the status of the Calhoun County Trailway. Recently, County Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey called a meeting with the Trailway Alliance, Friends of the Ott Preserve, CCRC staff and Holly Vickers from MDEQ at the Arlington Street parking lot of the Ott Preserve. A map of the most recently proposed route was provided. This route would follow the Consumers Energy right-of-way (ROW) on the western boundary of the Ott, into the Ott on an old road bed, back to the Consumers ROW following to the south around a wetland area, back to the Consumers ROW, through the back of the apartment complex that is adjacent to Michigan Avenue, and ultimately end at the Marshall Community Credit Union property.

It was noted that this route for the trailway would require the County to secure easements from private land owners. Mr. Garnett added that Richard Lindsey has spoken with the residents who own the property, as well as the owners of the apartment complex, and no one has been opposed to the idea of the trailway at this point. Discussion continued.

Commissioner Brown noted that this proposed route is significantly different than the originally proposed route that the design RFP's were based on. Discussion occurred on whether an addendum could be added to the original Request for Proposals or if the design would need to be rebid altogether.

Commissioner Tobin stated that more properties are involved with the recently proposed route and asked if there is support. Mr. Garnett responded that they are working with the property owners, Consumers Energy, and the Friends of the Ott and all seem to be supportive at this time and the Trailway Alliance would like to move forward.

It is expected that the County Board of Commissioners will be deciding whether or not to move forward with the Ott portion of the trailway at their April 7th meeting. County Legal Counsel will be proposing a resolution that will allow county staff to negotiate an agreement that allows us to go forward and will satisfy the Friends of the Ott and the Trailway Alliance.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Crumpton read the communications as follows:

- a) Received the Environmental Services Coordinator's Report

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Crumpton noted that Mrs. Eichorst did provide the Board with her report and she had nothing to add. A copy of the Resolution that is going before the County Board of Commissioners tomorrow night was provided.

COMMISSIONER TIME

Commissioner Coward asked if the Trailway Master Plan would need to be updated if the recently proposed route was approved. Mr. Garnett stated that the County Recreational Plan would be updated in three years and would include the trailway and any changes made to the route. Commissioner Vreeland added that one of the five principles that he came up with was to change the legal structures around the Ott and the rest of the parks including putting things in place for conservation easements, legal structures, etc. He added that he will be attending the next meeting of the Barry County Parks Board.

Commissioner Tobin agreed with Mr. Garnett that we need to move forward, but stated that he would have liked the trailway to have followed the original plan through the Ott Preserve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. or following the Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners meeting.

There being no additional business before the Board, Chairman Tobin adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

Eric J. Tobin, Chairman