

The regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board was held on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at 6:18 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: Kevin Henning, Managing Director
Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk
Michael Schroeder, ASLA, LHB Corporation, Inc.
General Public

Chairman Tobin called the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board to order at 6:18 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Johnson to approve the June 1, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote: Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to amend the agenda to allow for a presentation by Enbridge regarding their proposal. Voice vote: Motion carried.

PRESENTATION – HISTORIC BRIDGE PARK ENHANCEMENTS

Mr. Henning introduced Mr. Michael Schroeder of LHB Corporation, an engineering firm out of Minnesota retained by Enbridge. Representatives from Enbridge were also in attendance for the presentation of a proposal for enhancing Historic Bridge Park.

Mr. Schroeder emphasized that Enbridge's commitment to the communities of Marshall, Battle Creek, and areas along the Kalamazoo River impacted by the oil spill extends beyond the clean up itself. Recognizing the importance of the Kalamazoo River for recreational activities, they are committed to establishing community investment programs to increase access to the Kalamazoo River, including being handicap accessible.

Locations being considered include the Marshall Riverwalk, Bridge Park, and new access sites near the Ceresco Dam, McCormick Street, and Wheatfield Road (11 Mile Road). Mr. Schroeder provided drawings and outlined the improvements being proposed for these areas. He added that in addition to the community enhancements, Enbridge intends to provide for maintenance of the improvements in perpetuity through an endowment fund.

Commissioner Vreeland asked about the handicap accessible plans. Mr. Schroeder stated that this may include transfer benches to access the river, but they continue to strategize on methods to get back off the river.

Commissioner Brown commented that he likes the concept behind the Bridge Park enhancements and loves the concept of establishing an endowment fund for maintenance.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Mr. Schroeder and Enbridge representatives for the presentation.

Commissioner Tobin stated that the plans for Bridge Park look good and suggested that LHB and Enbridge include Vern Mesler and Greg Potter, as well as the Trailway Alliance in further discussions on plans.

COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Crumpton read the communications as follows:

- a) Received the Environmental Services Coordinator's Report
- b) Received the Agreement regarding Development of Phase I, Segment I of the Calhoun County Trailway
- c) Received a Proposal for Enhancing Historic Bridge Park from Enbridge
- d) Received Resolution 2011-01: Enbridge Enhancements to Historic Bridge Park

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Approve the Agreement regarding Development of Phase I, Segment I of the Calhoun County Trailway: Mr. Henning noted that the Board received the agreement at an earlier date, and all parties are in agreement regarding the development of Phase I, Segment I of the Calhoun County Trailway. He requested Board approval authorizing Chairman Eric Tobin to sign on behalf of the Parks Trustees Board.

Motion made by Commissioner Vreeland and supported by Commissioner Coward to approve the Agreement regarding Development of Phase I, Segment I of the Calhoun County Trailway. Roll call vote: Vreeland-Yes; Johnson-Yes; Coward-Yes; Brown-Yes; Tobin-Yes. Motion carried.

Approve Resolution 2011-01: Mr. Henning thanked those present from LHB and Enbridge for their presentation. He noted that he is very excited about the concept for enhancements to Historic Bridge Park and the endowment to provide maintenance in perpetuity and he requested approval of Resolution 2011-01.

Motion made by Commissioner Coward and supported by Commissioner Vreeland to approve Resolution 2011-01: Enbridge Enhancements to Historic Bridge Park. Roll call vote: Johnson-Yes; Brown-Yes; Coward-Yes; Vreeland-Yes; Tobin-Yes. Motion carried.

RFP for Trailway Design: The revised "Request for Proposals" for design of the Calhoun County Trailway is out and the bid opening is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Mr. Henning added that we need to establish a process to review the RFPs that are received. He noted that a selection team needs to be created and asked for Board input. It was the consensus of the Board that Eric Tobin, Parks Trustees Board Chairman, and Scott Brown, Board of Calhoun County Road Commissioners Chairman serve on the selection team for the trailway design. It was also suggested that staff solicit a representative from the Trailway Alliance, County Board, and Friends of the Ott Preserve. Mr. Henning noted the rigid timeline for this process that was included in Mrs. Eichort's report.

Kimball Pines: The Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire begins this weekend. The County's insurance adjuster has advised that the southern and parking lot pavilions need to be demolished prior to the event.

SUPERVISOR AND PUBLIC OFFICIAL COMMENTS

County Commissioner Julie Camp informed the Board that discussion took place at a recent strategic planning session of the County Board of Commissioners regarding establishing a Parks Commission modeled after Cass County.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Garnett, Calhoun County Trailway Alliance, expressed his appreciation to Enbridge for their proposed enhancements to Bridge Park and he added that he hopes they will consider how the trailway interfaces there.

Mr. Jesse Jacox, county resident, commented that he is pleased that Enbridge has asked him to work with them on the river access enhancement project and he is glad that the Parks Trustees are onboard with the project.

COMMISSIONER TIME

Commissioners thanked Enbridge for their proposal to enhance Bridge Park and other river access sites and for establishing an endowment fund to maintain these sites in perpetuity.

Commissioner Brown thanked Commissioner Vreeland and all volunteers who helped clean up storm debris at Kimball Pines.

Commissioner Tobin thanked Commissioner Brown for his clean up efforts at Kimball Pines, as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Parks Trustees Board will be held on Wednesday, August 3, 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 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Crumpton, Board Clerk

Eric J. Tobin, Chairman