

Lowell Area Trails Meeting
December 17, 2003
4:00 - 5:15 pm
Athletic Office Conference Room
Lowell High School

Present: Mari Stone, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Barry Hobrla, Andy Linebaugh, and Betsy Davidson

Regional links

Mari Stone reported that a second meeting was held with representatives of the Greenville, Rockford, Ada and Belding trail groups to discuss regional connections. The next meeting will be held at Cannon Township prior to the West Michigan Trails/Greenways Coalition meeting. The group is discussing the possibility of linking Greenville to Lowell and south to Elmdale and links to the White Pine Trail via railroad right of way and/or utility easements.

Alternatives to Joint Building Authority (JBA)

Andy Linebaugh sent information on types of authorities used by other trail groups to Mari Stone. One of the types used was the Urban Cooperation Act of 1967. The 1967 Act was briefly mentioned in Mark VanAllsburg letter of 10/01/03.

Dan presented information on the authorities to Vergennes Township and reports that they are willing to participate in an authority that does not use millage or bonds to fund the projects.

Funding sources

Betsy will check with Dave Pasquale to see if the City has set up a temporary account that would hold money for the trails. Some of the funds might be used for the legal fees necessary to set up an authority.

Post meeting note; A grant application was prepared by Mari and Perry and submitted to the Lowell Area Community Fund on January 2, 2004. The application is for funds for startup costs for the authority.

Public Information

Andy will check on providing information from the study to put in the website.

The group started discussion of ideas for the Lowell Community Expo to be held at the high school in March. Ideas included;

- Provide information on the development of the Recreation Authority
- Provide information on donating and volunteer opportunities
- Map out a “preliminary” route for the first phase segment from the Wittenbach Center to the Cooper Woodland and mark the trail for people to visit.

Al has contacted Jim White about obtaining the high school site plan for use in preliminary planning.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at our next group meeting on Wednesday January 14, 2003 at 4 pm, Lowell High School. **Meeting date is moved from the third Wednesday to the second to avoid conflicts with the West Michigan Trails/Greenways Coalition meetings.**

Respectfully submitted,
Al Halbeisen, P.E.
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For more information refer to the website
www.lowellareatrailway.org