

Lake Vermilion Trail Steering Committee
Meeting #14 Notes
4/12/17 – MN DNR Office, Tower

Attendees

John Bassing – *Greenwood Township*
Carol Booth – *Wakemup Village Resident, Cook*
Joan Broten – *Minnesota DNR*
Cathi Hively – *Beatty Township*
Holly Larson – *National Park Service*
Steve Lotz – *Vermilion Lake Township*
Lee Peterson – *Greenwood Resident*
Caroline Owens – *Ely Resident*
Elizabeth Storm – *City of Cook*
Sue Wolfe – *Owens Township*

1. Updates

a. Legislature

- i. Holly Larson attended the Parks & Trails Council of MN's Day on the Hill on 3/15, and passed around handouts of MN parks & trails data. Contact Holly if you'd like copies. Funding for the Mesabi Trail and Tower harbor project are in bills being considered by the State Legislature. She noted that the Day on the Hill is a good event to which the Committee may want to send representatives in future years.

b. Others

- i. No other updates were provided.

2. Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

a. Update on Legal Revisions

- i. Joan Broten handed out a new draft of the JPA. The Tower legal consultant has made some revisions, but there are still blanks to be filled in, in Articles VII, VIII and IX, Officers, Insurance, and Liability, respectively.
- ii. Steve Lotz noted that the JPA needs to address the liability issue, since Bois Forte may not be subject to the same liability limits as cities and townships.
- iii. When the new draft JPA is complete, Holly will ask Sidra to have the Bois Forte attorney review the document and address the liability issue.

b. Prepare for 2nd round presentations:

- i. The need to have at least one person from the Committee attend the 2nd round presentations to the Boards/Councils was discussed. The following people agreed to attend these presentations: Carol—Beatty, Steve—Vermilion Lake, Sue—Owens, Joan--Tower

- ii. Holly agreed to prepare a presentation on the new draft JPA, identifying the items that have changed, so that it can be used for all of the 2nd round meetings.

3. Communication/Public Relations

- a. Approve water bottle/decal/brochure orders
 - i. Carol presented cost estimates from local companies to print water bottles and decals with the logo. The Committee decided on a blue logo and lid for the water bottle, a full color decal, and approved the purchase using existing funds. Carol will place the order & coordinate with the printer
 - ii. The Committee also approved the printing of an updated brochure by the Timber Jay. Carol will order the brochures, and will ask the Timber Jay about printing the insert (donation form) as well. The insert was added manually last year.
- b. Review talking points
 - i. Holly asked for any comments on the Talking Points document that was handed out at the March meeting. Carol had commented via e-mail, asking to add information about trail maintenance, fundraising, adopt-a-trail, cooperative use of equipment, etc. No other additions/changes were voiced. Holly will update the Talking Points document and provide it to the Committee.

4. Fundraising

- a. Recent donations: A spreadsheet of donations was sent to the committee with the 4-12-17 agenda. There were two donations in late March, a private donor and the North Star Credit Union. Carol has been keeping a record of finances on this spreadsheet, and has written thank you notes to the donors. It was noted that the City of Tower should also be keeping a record of finances, as the fiscal agent. Carol will check with Linda Keith to ensure that their recordkeeping corresponds.
- b. Review of draft letter & identify prospective donors: There was a discussion of what to call people who donate, and the terms “donors” and “supporters” were preferred.
 - i. The following organizations were identified as prospects either for donations or for assistance: Lions Club—Liz will contact; NW Friends of the Arts (individual members)—Sue will contact; Boy Scouts (help with summer booths?)—Carol will contact; Resorts (through Tiffany)—Carol will contact; Essentia Foundation, Northland Foundation (organizational development, capacity building, start up)—Caroline will contact; Marinas; Corporations; Churches (for individual donations through info in church newsletters); Heiam Foundation (Cook Hospital)—Carol will contact; Medical staff (for trail promotion, endorsement)

- ii. It was noted that the personal information, such as address & e-mail address of the donors should not be included in the meeting notes that are posted on the website or other public media, for privacy reasons. Holly will contact Russell regarding this
- iii. The committee discussed sending out a press release about the start of the fund drive in May or June. Carol will draft the press release, and Holly will review it. This will be sent to the Timber Jay, Hometown Focus, etc. The release should be sent to Russell to include on Facebook.
- iv. Carol asked the Committee members to think about individuals and corporations who may be prospective donors. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
- v. The upcoming Cook Timber Days in June and the 4th of July run were mentioned. The summer festival schedule and the possibility of Lake Vermilion Trail promotion will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Master Plan Revision

- a. Subcommittees for Trail Development: Carol reported that there had been a trail development meeting for the Beatty Township area on Tues. April 11th, which was well attended and productive. Some members will start speaking to landowners about their interest in the trail. This group will likely meet again in May. Holly offered to hold a meeting for the “east end” trail development: Tower to the Y store intersection (169/1/77) around the time of the next Steering Committee meeting, if there is enough interest.
- b. Trail development phasing/prioritization. The Committee discussed prioritizing the trail phases, and decided to use the ranking that had been done as a starting point. The ranking charts had only been completed by a portion of the committee. Several members had found the ranking difficult to complete for segments of the trail corridor with which they were unfamiliar. The Committee agreed to a policy of balancing the priorities geographically between the west and east ends. The Committee chose to rate the planned trail segments as “high” “medium” or “low” priority instead of a numerical ranking. The high priority segments should be worked on at the same time. They are: Segment 2: Wakemup Hill to Wakemup Campground, #4: Frazier Bay Access to Greenwood Town Hall, and #7: 169/1/CR77 Intersection to Tower. The medium priority segments are: 1: Cook to Wakemup Hill, 1A: Head of the Lakes Bay to Wakemup Hill, 3: Wakemup Campground to Frazier Bay, 5: Greenwood Town Hall to Fortune Bay, 6: Fortune Bay to 169/1/CR77 Intersection, and 6B: Hoodoo Point to McKinley Park. The low priority segments are: 3A: Oak Narrows Spur, 4A: Greenwood Spur, and 6A: Ferry route from the Hoodoo Trail to Fortune Bay. It was noted that the priorities could change as opportunities arise, etc.
- c. Breakout group discussions—these were tabled until the next meeting due to lack of time.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 @ 10 a.m. at the Greenwood Town Hall