

Lake Vermilion Trail Steering Committee
Meeting #9 Notes
11/9/16 – Greenwood Town Hall

Attendees

Carol Booth – *Wakemup Village Resident, Cook*
Joan Broten – *Office Manager, Minnesota DNR Parks & Trails, Tower City Council*
Russell Habermann – *Arrowhead Regional Development Commission*
Cathi Hively – *Beatty Township*
Holly Larson – *National Park Service*
Steve Lotz – *Vermilion Lake Township*
Elizabeth Storm – *Cook City Council*
Sue Wolfe – *Owens Township*

1. Updates

- a. The *Profile of Mesabi Trail Visitors: People Traveling More than 50-miles or Staying Overnight to Use the Trail* economic impact study has been released.
- b. A bikeway is being installed between Ely and Babbitt along Highway 21. The Steering Committee noted that Highway 115 would be a good on-road bike route to serve interim bicycle connections in the Lake Vermilion area.
- c. Carol Booth spoke with Eric Fallstrom, St. Louis County Engineer, who said he can answer engineering questions as they arise during the master planning process.
- d. Though “COOKTOBERFEST” was cancelled, Sue Wolfe will still make a presentation board for trail outreach. It will be ready by Spring 2017.

2. Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

- a. Review and comment on NEW draft agreement: The Steering Committee requested the following revisions:
 - i. Include “Joint Powers Board” in document title.
 - ii. Insert “regular maintenance” in the list of board responsibilities in Article III, Paragraph 5.
 - iii. Move Article III, Paragraph 5 into Article IV.
 - iv. Change Article IV title to “Board Duties.”
 - v. Change Article VI title to “Dues.”
 - vi. In Article VI, replace “Association” with “Board” and change “legal residents” simply to “residents.”
 - vii. Change Article X title to “Changes in Membership.”
 - viii. Replace existing Article X language with “Application for changes in membership must be provided in writing to the existing Board.”
- b. Review and comment on presentation materials: The Steering Committee requested the following revisions:
 - i. More detailed information about the joint powers board should be added.

- ii. The corridor line on the trail map should be wider.
 - iii. The “History” slide should establish that the trail committee has been active since 2010.
 - c. Council meeting logistics: The presentation to Cook City Council will take place on Thursday, November 17; Holly Larson, Carol Booth, Tim Johnson, Josh Gillson, and more will present. Cook presenters will meet at Tim Johnson’s office at 5:00 pm to run through logistics. The presentation to Tower City Council will take place on November 28; Russell Habermann, Greg Dostert, and more will present.
 - d. Up Next: County and Tribal Council
 - i. Holly will revise the joint powers agreement to reflect Steering Committee feedback.
 - ii. Holly will submit the joint powers agreement to Linda Keith, City of Tower, to have her submit it to the Minnesota League of Cities for a legal review.
 - iii. Russell will alter the map image and develop an organizational structure tree for the PowerPoint slides.
 - iv. Holly will work with Carol to revise other PowerPoint slides.
 - v. Holly will submit presentation materials to the City of Cook by November 14.
 - vi. Joan Broten will get the Lake Vermilion Trail on the City of Tower council agenda; Russell will coordinate materials for the presentation.
 - vii. Carol will send Tiffany Fondie, LVRA, the note about the Cook City Council meeting presentation.
 - viii. Steve Lotz has inquired about insurance for the Joint Powers Board through MATIT (Association of Townships), but they have not responded.
3. Master Plan Revision
- a. Trail Use: Russell Habermann facilitated a discussion to collect Steering Committee input regarding allowable trail use. The Steering Committee listed the following trail uses (some under additional conditions) and policies for use in the master plan:
 - i. Summer Use
 - 1. Biking
 - 2. Walking
 - 3. Rollerblading
 - 4. Roller skiing
 - 5. Skateboarding
 - ii. Winter Use
 - 1. Walking/Hiking
 - 2. Snowshoeing
 - 3. Fat tire biking
 - 4. Skiing
 - 5. Skijoring

6. Dogsledding

- iii. Electric mobility devices may be used on the Trail.
 - iv. Pets are allowed, but they must be leashed.
 - v. The Trail will not be plowed or tracked during winter, but will be open for use.
 - vi. Unless the Trail Board decides otherwise, the trail will be open 24/7 for use.
 - vii. There may also be opportunities to develop “shared corridors” for the Trail to parallel an unpaved snowmobile or horse trail, or locate the paved trail within an existing unpaved trail corridor. However, it is not the intention to develop parallel paved and unpaved trails for the length of the trail.
- b. The Steering Committee also mentioned the possibility of a wheel pass system on the Trail, which could help defray a portion of annual maintenance costs. Mesabi Trail staff indicated to Russell and Holly that their wheel pass system may not be cost effective. Further research is needed.

4. Communication/Public Relations

- a. Website and letterhead: Russell announced that the Lake Vermilion Trail website, www.lakevermiliontrail.org, is now live and that all meeting materials will now be posted on www.lakevermiliontrail.org/meetings. Russell also passed around a sample piece of Lake Vermilion Trail letterhead.
- b. The insert for the brochures has been revised to note the tax exempt status of donations. Russell will e-mail the insert to the Committee.
- c. Steering Committee members also mentioned that Music in the Park would be a good opportunity for summer outreach.

5. Fundraising

- a. Updates – Steering Committee members identified the following fundraising opportunities and gave brief updates on their progress if they pertain to the Lake Vermilion Trail:
 - i. Lake Country Power Round-up: Carol applied for \$2,500 to use for promotional activities, including renting halls for public meetings.
 - ii. Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP): Carol applied for \$7,500 from RSDP for planning costs of ARDC.
 - iii. Lake Vermilion Resort Association: Carol wrote a thank-you note to the LVRA for their continued support of the Trail.
 - iv. Natural Harvest Food Co-op: You have to be a 501(c)(3) to receive funding, so this isn’t an option.
 - v. Credit Union in Cook: A donation bucket is set up by the change machine; 5% of change cashed in may also be donated to the Lake Vermilion Trail fund.
 - vi. Minnesota Power: Minnesota Power supplies energy to Tower; funding opportunities may apply to the Lake Vermilion Trail.

- vii. Crowdsourcing Funding: Individual donors could be listed on the website and in local papers. Incentives for giving could be established. The Committee wants to set up a donation hierarchy (gifts or benefits to donors at different donation levels) and requested examples from other trail projects. Holly will provide examples.
- viii. Donation request letter: Josh and Russell have a draft. It was suggested to wait until more progress has been made before sending this to a large list of potential donors.
- b. Other Items: The question of the need for a treasurer was voiced. For now, since the City of Tower is the interim fiscal agent, Linda Keith may be the most appropriate person to serve in this capacity. The opportunity will be further explored.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 @ 10 a.m. in Cook Hospital (10 5th Street SE)