

Lake Vermilion Trail Steering Committee
Meeting #21 Notes
12/13/17 – Greenwood Town Hall, Tower

Called to order at 10:00 AM

Attendees

John Bassing – *Greenwood Township*

Joan Broten – *Minnesota DNR*

Holly Larson – *National Park Service*

Steve Lotz – *Vermilion Lake Township*

Josh Gilson - *Lake Vermilion Resort Association*

Carol Booth - *Beatty Resident*

Greg Dostert – *Breitung Township*

Elizabeth Storm – *City of Cook*

Sue Wolfe – *Owens Township*

Caroline Owens – *Eagles Nest Resident*

1. Updates

- a. Carol Booth asked about the availability sample Letters of Intent for granting trail easements.
- b. Joint Powers Board appointments:
 - i. Owens appointed Tom Lantry, Beatty resort owner as JPB representative. This will be Sue Wolfe's last meeting as she had agreed to serve as Owens' Steering Committee representative through December 2017.
 - ii. Greenwood appointed Lee Peterson, Greenwood resident and Steering Committee member as JPB representative however John Bassing indicated they now had reservations as to the viability of the trail project given the lack of support on the part of State legislators and County commissioners. Carol Booth said she and Tim Johnson plan to meet with legislators in the near future.
 - iii. Cook is expected to appoint Tim Johnson, Cook business owner and Steering Committee member, as representative with Harold Johnston, Mayor of Cook as alternate at their December meeting.
 - iv. Carol Booth reported that Beatty was to appoint supervisor Cathi Hively to the JPB.
 - v. Joan Broten reported that Kugler had appointed supervisor Tim Kotzian to the JPB.
 - vi. Bois Forte will address the issue of the re-formatted Joint Powers Agreement at their next meeting.
 - vii. Tower appointed assistant clerk Terri Joki as JPB representative.
 - viii. Vermilion Lake appointed supervisor Steve Peterson as representative and supervisor Phil Anderson as alternate.

2. Administration

a. Joint Powers Agreement & Board at St. Louis County

- i. Report on the December 12 St. Louis County Board meeting – Carol Booth and Holly Larson attended the meeting. The Board took up the Trail JPA at about 4 pm with Board Chair Jewell leaving due to another commitment. Commissioner Rukavina appealed to the Board to adopt listing many reason to do so. Commissioner Nelson presented a number of reasons to oppose the JPA. The Board agreed to send the JPA to the SLC Attorney for review. With a cursory review of the JPA the SLC Attorney felt that there should be a change or clarification in Article X – Changes in Membership where the last sentence now reads “Once a participating governmental entity withdraws, that entity shall have no further responsibilities, however such withdrawing entity shall remain liable for any dues, liability, or other obligation under this Agreement from an occurrence that took place prior to the withdrawal.” She felt it would better read “Once a participating governmental entity withdraws, that entity shall have no further responsibilities, however such withdrawing entity shall remain liable for any dues, liability, or other obligation under this Agreement from an occurrence that took place prior to the notice of withdrawal.”
- ii. Revisions to the JPA – if the SLC Attorney recommends any changes in JPA language and the SLC Board approves the JPA with those changes Holly will work to get review and approval from the other attorneys involved from Tower, Cook, Greenwood, and Bois Forte. Then the revised JPA would have to be re-approved by the various bodies. If SLC does not approve the JPA then the JPA would have to be revised to remove SLC as a member as it was to remove Breitung and that revised JPA would then have to be approved by the various bodies. It is anticipated that the SLC legal review will not be available until January.
- iii. Holly Larson asked if the Steering Committee wished to continue to pursue SLC approval. Joan Broten motioned, second by Josh Gilson, to continue to pursue SLC approval and participation. Eight ayes and one nay (John Bassing). There was discussion as to how to proceed. It was agreed that the County Commissioners needed to receive more information about the Trail and that such information should be as condensed and concise as possible. Carol will work on a list of bullet points and she and Josh will contact the various Commissioners in an effort to answer any specific questions that they may have.
- iv. Tax ID number – the lack of an individual Trail tax ID number has become an issue with fund raising and it was agreed that once the JPB is formed it should as soon as is practical obtain a tax ID number and establish an account at a financial institution.

- b. At the November Steering Committee meeting the first meeting of the JPB had been set for January 4 2018 in the hopes of a decision from SLC and to make application for the Transportation Alternatives grant. It was decided at the Tower to the Y Store subcommittee meeting prior to this meeting that we were not prepared to proceed with the TA grant at this time and SLC approval remains a work in progress so it was decided that the first meeting of the JPB would be pushed back to into February. The Steering Committee will meet January 10 2018 at Cook and the first JPB meeting date will be set there.
 - c. A poll was taken and many to most of the present Steering Committee members will be staying on in the coming year.
- 3. Communications
 - a. Newspaper articles of the JPB approval are on hold pending a SLC decision.
 - b. Banner purchase – Carol Booth and Char Conger will be working on a design.
 - c. Joan Broten provided a sample business card layout. With pricing earlier given as \$52 for 500 or \$55 for 1,000, motion by Carol, second by Greg Dostert and Elizabeth Storm to order 1,000 cards from the Timberjay. All aye. Motion carried.
 - d. No one had information on winter promotional events coming up in the area.
- 4. Fundraising
 - a. Donations – one party is ready to make a donation when the details can be worked out. A donation report was not available.
 - b. Grants
 - i. Transportation Alternatives grant – it is not ready for this cycle. Holly Larson will make contact to withdraw our Letter of Intent. We will try for a summer application.
 - ii. Two upcoming grants – first an IRRRB Grant Writing Grant – application is due February 28. This is a 50/50 grant from \$150 to \$5,000. Second is a People for Bikes grant also a 50/50 grant. It was felt the State farm grant could be used as a good match. An online letter of intent is due January 20 with an application to follow by April 7. Motion by Joan Broten, second by Elizabeth Storm, to pursue both grants. All aye. Motion carried.
 - iii. Josh Gilson will work on a letter of intent for an application to the Blandin Foundation for mapping and engineering.
 - c. Online Fundraising Update – Josh Gilson presented the difficulties of online fundraising without a unique Trail tax ID number. He indicated that it was required for most and beneficial for all.
- 5. Trail Development
 - a. Joan Broten presented the current status of the Tower to the Y Store segment, which is focused on the east end going as far west as the east end to the West Two Road. KGM has been contacted about possible routes through or around

their gravel pit. The appropriate contacts are being sought at the State for easement across the state land where the Tower DNR building is located. And the City of Tower was to discuss trail passage through a City owned parcel at their last City council meeting but no report of the outcome was available.

- b. Carol Booth presented the status of the west segment. Tom Lantry has been particularly helpful in working with are property owners. At least initially trail head parking will be available at a lot just north of the Landing restaurant. The route would work south and west from the Landing, crossing through a mix of larger private parcels and State and County lands to Wakemup Hill. Several large land owners were on board and she felt that they were close to being ready for letters of intent with some owners.
- c. The Greenwood segment is having difficulty reaching the Frazer Bay Landing and some other land owners in the area will be contacted.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 10 a.m. to Noon
at a location in Cook to be announced later**