

Minutes for Friends of the Trail
Thursday, March 30, 2006
530pm City Hall

Attending: Tab Ray, Todd Fonkert, Dr. Jim Rathe, Kim Folkers, Bruce Ecker, Darren Siefken, Steve Main, Ed Brown, Dave Walston

Work Day

Spring Clean up for the trail is scheduled for Saturday May 6th starting at 8AM. Meet at Trail Head Shelter south of Kwik Star east.

Activities include removing debris from the fencing along the trail. Anyone with a chain saw is requested to bring them along. Darren Siefken offered to place the event in Crowdaddy's new letter to go out to their members.

Readlyn trail Update

Todd Fonkert of the Bremer County Engineers office spoke on the situation of the trail from Denver to Readlyn. The trail appears to walk able, but all of the bridge structures are absent. Volunteer trees are developing on the trail and much of it is covered by grass or weeds. It is estimated currently to cost 1.2 million for constructing bridges and improving the trail to full usage. Just to replace the bridges could cost as much as \$500,000. The city of Readlyn is focusing on the intercity development of the trail.

It was suggested that a 5 year plan be proposed to the County Board of Supervisors which would divide up the total project and would start with the replacement of bridges. Doing the bridges first would allow the trail to be useable. Fonkert said that a possibility would be used bridges available to span the divides missing on the trail. Grants and application to the State enhancement fund were suggested. Proposals and suggestions need to be presented to the Board of Supervisors by the communities of Waverly, Denver and Readlyn to show the commitment and interest in the project. The Bremer County Conservation Board needs to be included in the interest and maybe able to provide maintenance of the trail. Members and trail users need to take all opportunity to express their interest in the trail to the Board of Supervisors. Fonkert will work on bridge structure replacement and meet with the trail group later this summer.

National Trials day

Seifken was present to offer an incentive to promote National Trail Day. Several business in the county will offer prizes for participants that would go out to different parks throughout the county and have there bingo card stamped. Once the cards were completed they would take them to a participating business to receive their prize. The activity would be scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd.

New Business

Ray proposed to the group that funds be used to purchase a commercial drinking fountain and place it near the gazebo east of the Cedar River Bridge. The fountain would cost approximately \$2500 and would include a dog waterer as well. The group agreed to this expense. Ray will be writing an article for the paper requesting people walking their animals on the trail pick up after their pets. The City of Waverly has disposable bags available for cleaning up after their animals. There are three doggie disposal stations now, one in Kohlmann Park and two on the trail with possible more planned.