

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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6:00 p.m., Monday
March 12, 2018

BIG BEAR SPORTSMAN CLUB
8927 Puustinen Road
Kaleva, Michigan

MINUTES

Ms. Tamara Buswinka called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Introductions

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Present: Tamara Buswinka, AES; Linda Finout, Manistee Twp; Karla Kasten, Kaleva Village; Mary Reed, Onekama Twp & Village; Randy Sanovic, Manistee Snowbirds; Mark Coe, Manistee Snowbirds; Jacqu Erdman, Pleasanton Twp; Linda Cudney, Cleon Twp; Elaine Gibbs, Copemish Village; Karen Kolk, Filer Twp; Greg McPherson, Bear Lake Village; John Steben, Arcadia Twp; Lisa Leedy, AES; Ken Blakely-Shell, City of Manistee and Cycle Club; Wayne Beldo, Maple Grove Township; Kathryn Kenny, MC Visitors Bureau and Nancy Baker, Manistee County Planning Assistant.

Fund Development

Spicer gave a cost for the Copemish-Kaleva Trail. \$444,000; \$3000,000 will come from the Trust Fund grant; \$60,000 offered by the DNR internal grant leaving the committee \$84,000 to raise. Scott Slavin, DNR, will be the committee contact. He has experience in working with trails. It is suggested to use the Manistee County Foundation services. This project is in "the wheelhouse" of recreation grants. A large grant is available but will be disbursed to many groups. The Foundation can help set up a fund page and the management/paperwork of it. Discussion for funding the whole county trail system and not just segments at a time and how to best handle raising funds for this was discussed and will continue to be discussed. Finding the proper way to do this and the entity to help will require investigating the matter. A landing point is needed for the raised funds. It was mentioned that Consumer Energy may have match/grant funding that may help with the match funding. There are other businesses that may also offer help with funding. A SMART Facebook page will be set up for trail information and trail donations. A person(s) are needed to maintain the page. Discussion took place to figure out what work will need to be done for the remainder of the amount needed once the DNR fund match and donations from other big donors are known.

Committee Reports

Kathryn Kenny, Manistee Visitors Bureau, explained what they do. They cannot market/raise funds for the trails, but they can post information regarding the trail. The

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trail was given an official name of SMART (Sensational Manistee Area Recreation Trail). A local high school logo competition will be put together. Guidelines will be set up. The local communities donated funds for 1-\$100, 2-\$50 and 1-\$20 Visa card prizes. The committee may choose a logo or combine ideas from several logos as the logo for SMART. News coverage on this event will be done. Committee members are encouraged to invite any stockholders and interested persons in the trail system to attend the meetings. Each community needs to have a representative at the meetings.

Trail Updates

The Betsie Valley Trail is on board with the trail committee. They will assist with maintenance and management of the connecting trail to their trail system. More than 1 trail can be figured out/worked on at the same time but the Copemish/Kaleva trail grant is the first priority due to the grant submission deadline date. Other grants are being worked on as well. Different possible routes for what is known as the Zimmerman Trail (which will not be known as this name) are being looked at. The suggested route through Frost Road area which is a residential area is not a feasible route. Another route is being considered. Manistee Township does support the trails but not through residential areas. They will assist with alternative route(s) in their township. The use of the old RR, which is now owned by the Tribe, can be used as a portion of the trail. A meeting with MDOT will take place at the Manistee Township Hall on Monday March 19th at 1:00 p.m. regarding the replacement of the bridge and the trail being included with this design.

Recreation Authority Role

Ms. Buswinka did not receive correction responses to the existing document. Ms. Buswinka only received comment on the Recreation Authority Agreement from Manistee Township. They require changes to the language of the Agreement before they are willing to sign on. Ms. Buswinka mentioned setting up an Authority based on direct contributions from communities. There will not be a tax levy. Discussion on starting with communities that are interested in being part of the Authority or having all communities involved, even if the trails are not at this point starting in their communities, ensued. Starting the trails in the north and working south will hopefully bring a larger interest from the other communities once they see trail progress but having all communities involved from the start is very important and would be better. A timeline to introduce the Authority was started with an educational panel being done April/May and conversations with the different communities will be set up. It is necessary to have letters of commitment by October 1st, but funding does not have to be in the bank by this time. Work will be done to find out if the Authority can be started on a small scale and bring others in later or will they be needed from the start. Contact to see what each community will need to contribute will be investigated. Contacting the lawyer on all of this will be done. A conference call will be set up with the Marquette Trail Authority with Ken, Mark and Tamara to ask questions regarding covering the members of an Authority on making

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community decisions, insurance on the trails etc. The Authority is important because it can oversee funds/costs and other duties of the trails.

RFP Committee

Several committee members will look over the draft with Ms. Buswinka. This will then be given to the entire committee.

Next Meeting Date

There was no meeting date set up at this time.

The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Baker, Recording Secretary
Date: March 12, 2018