

MEETING 1 MINUTES

PROJECT: TRAIL PLANNING PROJECT
DATE OF MEETING: JANUARY 11, 2016
SUBJECT: MEETING 1

On Wednesday January 11, 2017, trail stakeholders and partners met at Plainwell City Hall at 2pm to discuss the development of a trail that will connect the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail with the Kent County Trails system and eventually to the Grand River Greenway Trail. Below are the minutes from that meeting.

1. Overview of the trail project
 - There are 3 routes we are investigating, each are about 42 miles in length.
 - Route Option #1:* US-131 MDOT right-of-way
 - Route Option #2:* Following County Road 45: Douglas Ave to 10th St (Co Rd 45) to Division St (Co Rd 45) to 12th St (Co Rd 45) to Division Ave S
 - Route Option #3:* Off road following Consumers/ITC lines
2. Collection of Team contact data
 - Please sign in at the front, update any missing or incorrect information
 - Please add anyone to the list who you feel would make a good partner in this project
 - Groups we identified that we would like to add to add to the contact list:
 - Grand Rapids bike groups
 - Grand region MDOT team
 - Spoke Folks
 - ADA groups
3. Scheduling of Meetings 2 through 5 and the public hearing time period
 - Meetings will be the second Wednesday of the month.
 - We set the schedule for upcoming meetings as follows:
 - Meeting 2: February 8, 2017 at 2pm at Plainwell City Hall**
 - Meeting 3: March 8, 2017 at 2pm at Plainwell City Hall
 - Public Information Gathering Time Period: (6 months, 4 meetings, set for April – September).
 - Meeting 4: October 11, 2017 at 2pm at Plainwell City Hall
 - Meeting 5: November 8, 2017 at 2pm at Plainwell City Hall
4. Review of the Champion/Representative Roles
 - You represent your community and constituents, please keep them updated and keep us updated on their feedback
5. Discussion of Project Website
 - We reviewed the project website that will be live in the next few weeks. This website will be live throughout the whole process so that we can gain immediate feedback about what is on people's minds and trends. In the upcoming weeks, you will receive the link to the website to distribute as well as place on all your sites (facebook, etc.) We will also provide blurbs or other plugs you can send out along with the link.
 - The main page scrolls down to all the different areas of the site.
 - As you scroll down you will see areas for community input, notifications for public meetings, background information on the project, a contact form (an email for the project will be set up), news (when articles about this project appear in publications), a link to the projects facebook page, etc.

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- The mapping area of the site is very interactive, we will set up custom data layers with icons. We will be able to use this mapping feature to gain information and feedback from the local community.

6. Trail discussion & questions

- We had a great discussion of the trail and answered questions.
- Discussed how the phone app “Strava” could be used to show a heat map of areas that are heavily (or not so heavily) used for recreation activities such as biking, running, walking, etc.
- It was discussed that it is possible and may be more advantageous to combine the 3 routes if that appears more advantageous.
- The importance of amenities and passing as close to towns as possible for ways to stop and then bring in commercial sales
- Discussed how jurisdictions along the way may have an influence on the route chosen
- The City of Wayland already have ride of way secured. They want it on Consumer’s Energy right-of-way. In Wayland township, some property owners are not as interested in having the trail on Consumer’s Energy right-of-way, they may want their section closer to 131.
- An example of how the route was decided for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail was shared. They divided into teams. The City of Kalamazoo to the west was 1 team, Parchment/Kalamazoo Township and Cooper township were another team and the City of Comstock was the last team. They worked on community trails routes (zoomed into their own community and work out that ideal path) and then they came together to patch all the individual trail routes together. This is a Grass roots approach, it was discussed rather this would work for our trail design/layout discussion.
- We were reminded to think about this project in terms of connectivity, that this is a regional project.
- Zoom into your own community and work out your ideal path. Then come together to patch them all together.
- The state of Michigan is working on doc to qualify for official state trail town and also pure Michigan trail town document, stay tuned.
- Do not think about money at this point in the process, “Dream”
- Corridor along 127 is similar to the corridor along 131 if you need help envisioning the possible trail path.
- The following are links we discussed during the meeting that will be useful to you:
 - Michigan Trails: <http://trailsmichigan.com/>
 - Trail Towns: <https://www.trailtowns.org/>
 - Public GIS Map: <https://wightman-assoc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f72d14c6c4764abf8028e26abc0717c2>

7. Champion Task: Update community decision makers

- The following are the Champion tasks for Meeting 2:
 - a. Come prepared with public meeting ideas (intent would be different geographical areas to get a cross section of information)
 - b. Start compiling a list of destination/attractions along the trail (to be placed on the website map)
 - c. Share map with your constituents to get their input
 - d. Think about pros and cons of the different trail routes

Any corrections or additions, please forward them to me.
Suzannah Deneau, sdeneau@wightman-assoc.com

