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**GREAT PLAINS TRAILS NETWORK**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 20, 2017**

**Jayne Snyder Trail Center**

## BOARD PHOTO

Before the meeting at 6:45 pm, Roger Hirsch took a group photo of all the GPTN Board Members present. The photo will appear in the next newsletter.

## CALL TO ORDER

GPTN President Dena Noe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

## ROLL CALL

* Present: Dena Noe, Steve Dunbar, Greg Rosenboom, Chris Heinrich, Corey Godfrey, Jamie Warren, Jordan Messerer, Brett Baker, Jeff Kimble, JP Jamison, Kris Sonderup, Marynelle Greene, Kevin Fitzgerald, Elaine Hammer, Ron Case, Roger Hirsch, Gary Bentrup, Bill Wehrbein, Bob Torell, Mary Torell, Charlene Dunbar, Shelby Robinson, Anne Ringlein
* Not Present: Dale Arp, Karen Griffin, Parks Coble, Dave Scoby, Ray Stevens, Matt Baumeister, Jesse Petersen

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

Dena Noe presented the Annual Meeting minutes, Roger Hirsch moved to approve; Elaine Hammer seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Dena Noe presented the February Board Minutes with the election of new officers. Roger Hirsch moved to approve; Marynelle Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

## Draft Interlocal Cooperation Agreement

Dena Noe introduced Sara Hartzell of Lincoln City Parks to discuss the recent Draft Interlocal Cooperation Agreement from the Lower Platte South NRD.

Sara Hartzell provided background on the City's Planning Department, Utilities Department and Parks Department discussions with developers about potential housing development in the area between 84th Street to 98th Street, and from A Street to O Street. The area contains a portion of the MoPac Trail. The MoPac Trail in the area is currently governed by the Lower South Platte NRD. Because GPTN is a stakeholder in the MoPac Trail, Lincoln City Parks thought it was appropriate to bring GPTN into the discussion. This potential city expansion involves several issues, including sewer lines across the trails along with the chance to look at realignment of the trail near 98th Street.

A Board member raised the question: "Has the city ever had a situation where the city grew out over an existing trail?" Sara Hartzell said no. The closest may be the Crescent Green agreement from the 1970s, when the NRD was the construction manager for trails in the city, then the city maintained the trail. It was unclear whether this old agreement was adequate to cover the current situation. Maybe the City and the NRD need a new agreement, or to revise the old agreement. The Pedestrian-Bicycle Advisory Board (PBAC) discussed the issues surrounding the existing agreement, and the PBAC formed a subcommittee of PBAC to discuss the agreement. Sara Hartzell stated that the City would make decisions about trails, not the developer. A Board member raised the question: "How are trails different from sewer and water?" Sara answered that sewer and water are always in city limits, so service is always inside City policy. The City annexes streets under the existing annexation policy. These are standard policies. The discussion then centered around whether future treatment of trails could be part of the annexation policy.

A Board member asked "How does the policy affect trails affected by a leapfrog development and the trails the NRD has left?" Sara Hartzell answered that the city growth by 2040, even 2060, will be to Walton. If the City developed south, it might pick up some of the Jamaica Trail. The Murdock Trail is already in the city, to 112th at its end, so it is not at issue.

A Board member asked: "Why do we even need agreement, maybe it can be folded into the annexation policy?" The City will have another meeting on March 31 to discuss the policy further.

Sara Hartzell stated that the Interlocal agreement has some flexibility.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

After explanation from Jamie Warren, Brett Baker made the following Motion: "To provide additional funding, not to exceed $10,000, to Olsson Engineering to prepare presentation materials to promote potential trail projects to potential donors. Roger Hirsch seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jamie Warren reported that GPTN has a cash balance of $28,826.56. Membership is par for the month, but with more credit card memberships.

Discussion followed about auto-renewal of credit-card memberships.

Jamie Warren had no particular items to call out in the Treasurer's Report.

Motion to approve the report by Brett Baker, Corey Godfrey seconded, motion carried by voice vote.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### M2M Contract -- action needed

Dena Noe had the Market to Market contract from Ben Cohoon. Market to Market will be September 30. They will use the Jane Snyder Trail Center for registration pickup. GPTN will have 20 volunteers for the same exchange area and the Shindig. This year Market to Market has some clarification for time and shifts for Shindig. GPTN will get $1750 back from M2M and Charity of Choice for donations. Motion to agree to concept of the partnership agreement.

Motion: To approve concept, Roger Hirsch moved, Elaine Hammer seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

### Membership Drive

Membership drive in May, more information to come in April. Lots of events come in May, including Give to Lincoln day. Board goal to bring in 5 members each, bring total membership to 1000.

### Committee Policy

Dena Noe presented an amendment to the Committee Policy, to create and add the position of Executive Secretary to the Administrative Committee. The Past President will also serve a standing position on the Administrative Committee. Motion made by Mary Torrell , Marynelle Greene seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

### Ex Oficio Board Member

Jon Taylor is helping with Trail Trek.

The motion is make him an ex officio, non-voting member of Board of GPTN, to facilitate fund-raising. This is essentially the same position as with Jim Carveth last year since bylaws allow for this position. Motion made by Elaine Hammer, seconded by Gary Bentrup. Motion carried by voice vote.

### Candidate Guide:

Gary Bentrup suggested bringing awareness to City Council election (April 4 and May 2) by presenting some trail based questions for the candidates, to provide information on where they stand on trails. The idea is get responses, and publish them through the newsletter and the GPTN website, with no endorsement. The challenge is to write good questions. Anne Ringlein can share the responses with Track Club. The Newsletter will be in time for the general election, but not the primary Bill Wehrbein and Anne Ringlein will head up the question writing and coordination. No vote, discussion only.

### Wilderness Park Advisory Committee

Chris Heinrich provided information on the Wilderness Park Advisory Committee. Sara Hartzell is heading up the effort, groups including GPTN being involved. The Advisory Committee has two components, one is Ecological and other is Trails. Chris Heinrich discussed what needs repair and maintenance in the Park. First priority is replacing South Bridge. The City will apply for a grant. The City will replace South Bridge in 2018. Other bridges are in rough shape. The Yankee Hill bridge has a bad approach and is rickety. The committee considered three plans for restoration, the least costly plan is repair.

The most contentious issue is an open park for all users or designated trail use.

This becomes a role for GPTN, do we have a role to play in educating people? After meeting again and gathering ideas, Parks will formulate a management plan for Wilderness Park. Contact Chris to communicate ideas and opinions.

## VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Committee sign-up sheets

Each Board member is to sign up for 2 Committees. Dena Noe gave an overview of committee activity and purpose.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Fundraising Committee -- Gary Bentrup gave the Obligations report.
* Next project is to raise for the next phase of Prairie Corridor, the next phase is outside of Pioneers Park.
* Government Relations Committee -- Mary Torell reported that LB 471 now is in committee, it is not dead but may be carried over. It is not a priority bill. Mary is hoping it gets carried over. NDOR is changing to NDOT, the change will take effect Jan 1, 2018.
* Public Relations Committee -- Steve Dunbar reported on the Ameritas Wellness Event on March 29, the Hartley Elementary Health Fair/Bike Rodeo. Roger Hirsch had some information on Earth Day.
* The activity is to set up booths at Jane Snyder Center, it's a "Y'all come event", so all kinds of groups show up. Attendees may associate GPTN with those groups, but it may also be a place to collect members. The time frame 10 am to 2 pm on April 22. Roger has no recommendation about attending. PR committee can make a decision when it meets.
* Trail Use and Activities Committee -- Marynelle Greene reported. Tour de Lincoln needs at least 3 Board members for each ride, Board members at beginning, middle and end. The rides also need friendly greeters.
* Dena Noe will stay at Trail Center and try to get memberships signed up, with treats beforehand.
* GPTN has a news release to publicize event. GPTN will advertise the events in Neighborhood Extra.
* Eclipse event -- GPTN may need to get a request to Homestead Trail if we wish to be a participant or sponsor. This a activity for the Trail Use Committee. GPTN will need to Write a letter to the NRD to get use of the Trail that day. Trail Use will make a decision about eclipse activity.
* Finance Committee -- Corey Godfrey reported that the committee meets once per quarter. Next meeting is April.
* Trail Trek Committee -- Roger Hirsch reported that Trail Trek is a major challenge, since we lost the previous chairman and the Journal-Star as a sponsor. Local radio stations now fill the advertising gap. They have increased the in-kind donation for advertising. They will sell advertising to sponsors at good rate if the sponsors donate to Trail Trek. Pepsi is not donating delivery of water, but is donating water.
* Trail Trek needs volunteers for lots of activities and efforts. As before, there will be 4 trails, one to Cortland, one to Pioneers Park, a short trail for families, a long one that goes to Holmes Lake. Trail Trek will entertainment at Holmes Lake and Pinewood Bowl. Registration is now open.

## NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 20.