

ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Minutes of Regular Meeting
10/16/08

Call to order: Whipple called meeting to order 12:05 PM 10/16/08 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Quorum: A quorum was established with Whipple, Hansen, Saltonstall, Harrington, and Foreman present.

Approval of Agenda: Foreman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Hansen seconded. Carried 5-0.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Saltonstall moved to approve the minutes of 9/23/08 as presented. Hansen seconded. Carried 5-0.

Old Business:

Urban Trails: Schroeder met with Linda Freed on Oct 2nd, to discuss future consulting and trail planning contracts. One will be for Near Island planning, specifically the routing, and appropriate permissions for a trail connecting North End and South End parks. Another will be for obtaining appropriate permissions for the Zharoff Bridge trail connecting Mission Road to Rezanof in the vicinity of the bridge.

She specified a certain level of confidence the City needs before proceeding with formal planning and design of a trail construction project, since surveying itself involves significant cost. She indicated that gps tracklines represented on aerial photographs or firsthand eyewitness accounts of proposed trail routes' proximity to lot line markers are generally acceptable levels of confidence. Otherwise, most of the work is doing adequate research on ownership and getting landowner permissions to lay the groundwork for formal trail easements to be established. Both contracts will be written in December, to commence work in January, 2009.

Harrington added that KIB Planning & Zoning commission (P&Z) recently received the boroughs Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list. This list included lots of trail projects, including Mission Beach Stairs (transportation) and bike path extensions. P&Z will be reviewing these in a future worksession. She was disappointed to see that trails had consistently low economic value scores. Harrington won't be there for next month's meeting. Harrington summarized that CIP is supposed to be driven from the ground up, selected by people in the community. Anything that gets nominated gets discussed at the committee level. Currently,

ATV park and BMX parks are also on the KIB CIP list. Whipple pointed out that CIP projects that get funded are usually transportation projects, and many others never do get funded or take many years. She added that the CIP process in the borough is not as open to the public as it was intended to be. However, the city does not even claim to involve the public in the project selection process. Foreman said that years ago the KIB had more time to devote to looking for non-state funding sources, but now they're depending a lot on the state. The new grant writer in KIB manager's office should help alleviate that by seeking grants from programs such as ORTAB. Harrington suggested ITN obtain a copy of the CIP list from Bud Cassidy. ITN should make it a point for us to prioritize future trails project, because city/borough support is obviously already there.

Island Lake Trail Project: Schroeder circulated pictures of new boardwalk constructed near the recently built lower bridge, and described other improvements made in the area such as a flagstone step and additional brushing. Schroeder added that more volunteer work can be done if people are willing, but that he expects freezing temperatures and frozen ground will soon halt progress on the trail for the winter. The uppermost bridge is still listing and the 200' of new boardwalk is in need of non-skid. Harrington suggested signage recognizing Boy Scouts and ITN contribution to the trail. Schroeder said there's still vandalism on the trail and that any such sign may be a target for vandals.

Summit Lake grant. Blythe Brown, KSWCD noxious and invasive weeds coordinator and sole representative of that organization met with Whipple and Schroeder to discuss closing out the Summit Lake grant by year's end. Whipple will meet with Bud Cassidy in November. On related discussions about a forthcoming Summit Lake EQIP/WHIP project, Lisa Cole is in Dillingham, and the ball is in her court as far as further work on the Summit Lake trail. Whipple gave some background on the developing Leisnoi/NRCS/ITN partnership. Whipple says that NRCS can assign payment directly to us, possibly even getting advanced some of the required funds.

New Business:

Kodiak SWCD relationship. Schroeder has been invited to attend Dec 10 meeting to further define roles & responsibilities of the two organizations regarding trails in Kodiak. Whipple will be running for the board of directors. Cooperators may vote for new board members in this years election.

Board Vacancies: Schroeder asked each board member to review his or her term expiration and, for those terms expiring, to give notice as to their

intentions to seek reelection or not by the December meeting. Currently two board members, Ken Hansen and Erin Harrington, have terms due to expire.

Reports:

Executive Director's Report: Schroeder distributed in hardcopy and gave a verbal summary.

Whipple would like to see total volume of marine debris ITN has collected in some sort of report. Her husband Wes, who attended the Stink cleanup, said lots of floats and buoys came off of Sitkinak. Whipple also said Tony Lara is open to the idea of removal from Sitkinak, and not to count him out as contractors are sought.

A verbal treasurer's report was given by Schroeder. Several significant private contributions that were made last year will be continued this year.

Communications

An email from Tom and Linda Lance was circulated, requesting the abandonment of the noon hour for meetings, and for a more proactive stance on appropriate trail uses, specifically regarding ATV use.

Foreman said that we should be tagging comments like that for our strategic plan review. Whipple would like to invite Bud Cassidy to come in to say what the scope of the trails plan would cover. Foreman said some of that will be determined through the trails plan purpose.

A letter from Dr. Ronald Teel requested permission to take some of the stacked geoblock panels and lay them along damaged portions of the Portage Trail. Schroeder replied requesting that he not move any triplets or six packs, which have been carefully assembled and must be handled delicately until installation, but that he may use some cut-off pieces or lone panels which may be found around the installation site.

Audience Comments

Dennis DeWinter: Was curious what we did here. He asked if we're looking for more volunteers. Yes, we are. Our limitation has been having someone to coordinate that. Our goal is to potentially to hire or entice someone to work as summer volunteer coordinator. There are lots of ATV users using trails for hunting or recreation. Quite a few people are interested in becoming more involved in ITN's activities. AIRSTA is difficult to get free during the day, and he also agreed that noon meetings are difficult. Whipple suggested a quarterly membership meeting.

Eric Berg: Hadn't heard from us and wanted to see what we're up to.

Terry Michalski: Base CO is concerned with ATV use. Said no one knows where legal stream crossings are. ISC will have safety stand-down in December, and reminded Schroeder of the opportunity to film the video to send out next spring. No known designated stream crossings. You can get the map online. Harrington addressed a question about what existing trail maps are out there. Foreman said part of the trails plan is to identify 17-B easements. Koniag's got a land ownership map of the entire island, and Whipple offered to answer questions regarding land ownership.

Hans Tschersich: A new Pillar Mountain road turnout invites people to drive up into a pristine area where no trail currently exists. He asked the board if this was intentional and who is behind it. Part of new trail has even been paved with gravel. Foreman recommended that KEA and the city are the people to ask about this.

Director Comments

Harrington: Is happy to be back from her travels. She was dismayed to hear that the KIB trail plan could fall below the \$25k threshold. As a consultant, she can attest that the sum doesn't buy much consulting these days.

Hansen: After the first day of the clean-up he noticed we had a lot of buoys. The hardballs are very expensive and could possibly have resale value to the trawl fleet. Rubber buoy floats are also present. We probably have 100 good ones. Ken will pursue the resale of these to the fleet as a fundraiser for ITN. They will probably remain on Sitkinak Island until next year.

Foreman said that the Sitkinak clean-up should go to the paper. Schroeder said that the Daily Mirror had interviewed him for a story.

Whipple said there are a lot of different land use issues going on. ITN meetings are a good way to keep everybody informed. She envisions Koniag heading up a land use summit in the not-too-distant future. Koniag would also like to help village corporations with their land use permit process.

Harrington impressed with how much dialogue there is on land use issues these days. ITN is part of that. Harrington offered to help disseminate discussions and information through web channels, blogs, and social networking sites.

Upcoming Meetings: December meeting and December Strategic Plan review dates TBD. There will be no November meeting.

Adjournment: Foreman moved to adjourn, Hansen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Also present: Terry Michalski, Eric Berg, Russ Hazlett, Dennis DeWinter, Laura Slater, Wanda Scholze