

## ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
9/23/08

**Call to order:** Whipple called meeting to order 12:05 PM 9/23/08 in the Chamber Conference Room.

**Quorum:** A quorum was established with Whipple, Hansen, Saltonstall, Glaspell, 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 7/15/08 as presented. Hansen seconded. Carried 5-0.

### Old Business:

**Urban Trails:** Schroeder reported that he had been scheduled to meet with Linda Freed sometime before the end of September regarding urban trails, but that she is out of the office this week. He highlighted some ideas for Near Island trails, including a proposed trail connecting North End and South End parks via an existing social trail and crossing Rotary Park. The ORTAB grant application deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>, and the meeting is unlikely to happen or produce a trail candidate for that program this year. Foreman said that Susie Byersdorfer, who currently sits on the ORTAB board, is retiring from ADF&G and leaving Alaska. She suggested ITN might play a role in grooming someone for the position. Hansen emphasized a continued need for improved trail connecting Pier 2 with downtown. Schroeder said that the trail was identified in the letter, but was 5<sup>th</sup> in priority. Hansen said funding is available thru head tax for trails infrastructure in that area. Foreman added money has been designated for a study of traffic flow on Pier 2 and that trails might be a part of the solution. Board agreed that better walking infrastructure is needed.

**Leisnoi NRCS project:** Whipple gave background summary. Leisnoi will be pursuing funding through the NRCS for trail improvement of the 17b easement along the Summit Lake trail. Board member Carole Pagano and board have approved pursuing the project. Recently Sam Christian, Lisa Cole, and Whipple rode it to evaluate the trail, and determined that segments along the trail that are badly in need of a full paving geoblock installation with mesh underlayment. Leisnoi has made contact with NRCS to begin discussions. Once farm bill is settled, Cole and Pagano will discuss whether a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project (WHIP) or

Environmental Quality Improvement Project (EQIP) is more appropriate to the project. ITN wrote a letter to Leisnoi offering to oversee project management and installation. According to Cole, the NRCS can work directly with a third party if so designated by the grantee. Tribal entities in Alaska also get preference on NRCS WHIP and EQIP contracts. One challenge for ITN would be coming up with the capital for the project, as NRCS contracts are for reimbursement only. But Whipple said Mark Kinney told her that tribal entities can get a percentage of the contract money up-front, which would help. If awarded, the project will be broken into phases spanning several years. Whipple recommended board members visit the site, as this presents an opportunity to witness serious damage and to see what can be mitigated.

Saltonstall applauded ITN for working with Leisnoi right now. Foreman asked if the easement was well mapped? Whipple said BLM is awfully far behind in mapping of easements. Current laws forbid hunting, fishing, camping on the easement. Foreman pointed out it's one of the few road system state lands accessible for hunting, and will see increased pressure with the closure of other Leisnoi lands.

Whipple said she believes that currently all Leisnoi land is closed except for permit holders. Permits are available at the Safeway grocery store. Prohibited use of the land include firewood collecting and hunting, because of liability. Foreman pointed out that the liability issue hasn't been pointed out to the public.

Foreman requested a permit for herself for birding in Kalsin, and hiking in Termination Point. Carole Pagano promptly emailed back a permit good until the end of the year. There is no cost for these permits right now.

Schroeder said that Leisnoi VP Frank Pagano will be at the Parks & Rec meeting tonight and encouraged ITN board members to attend if interested.

## **New Business:**

**Field Season 2009:** Tentative projects for the 2009 field season include the Portage and Summit Lake geoblock installations, work on urban trails with the City and Borough (including Island Lake Trail), a new slate of Marine Debris clean-ups, and a continuation of the annual "Trails Summit" fundraiser.

Foreman said that this looked like a full plate. Schroeder said that all projects are tentative, pending allocation of funds, etc. However, funding sources for these trails projects have already been identified. Whipple

said that grants aren't just for projects. She suggested ITN develop a wish list for capital equipment.

Schroeder suggested we reflect on the 2008 field season to point out what went well, and what mistakes were made to highlight how things might be done better in 2009.

**Reports:** Schroeder gave verbal summary of the ED report, which was distributed in hardcopy. A treasurer's report was given by Schroeder .

**Board Comments:**

**Erin Whipple:** ITN should look into corporate sponsorships.

**Saltonstall:** Volunteered to take part in Dig Afognak marine debris activities in 2009.

**Glaspell:** One of the biggest issues in perception of land use policy is the ease or availability of land use permits. He suggested we work with Leisnoi to figure out best way to issue permits, figure out how to date them, etc. This will help the public perception of complex land use policies. He also suggested we invite Lisa Polito to come talk for 10 minutes during our next board meeting, to tell us what she does, how she does it, etc. She's a great volunteer coordinator.

**Foreman:** Quipped that Schroeder should quit "beating himself up."

**Audience Comments:** None

**Upcoming Meetings:** October 15th

**Adjournment:** Moved moved to adjourn, Saltonstall seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.