

## ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
06/18/09

**Call to order:** Whipple called meeting to order 12:00 PM 06/18/09 in the Chamber Conference Room.

**Quorum:** A quorum was established with Saltonstall, Whipple, Foreman and Glaspell present. Hansen is excused due to a road blockage.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Saltonstall moved to approve the consent agenda. Foreman seconded. Passed 4-0.

**Audience Comments:** None.

### **Old Business:**

**Urban Trails:** Schroeder reported that ITN will seek approval to move forward at city council work session on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have tools (Alaska State parks), volunteer resources through the NYC internship and Eco-Challenge service project, and \$2500 in donations towards the project. Whipple asked to put in for another Wal-Mart grant. Will ask city for Parks & Rec resources such as tools and equipment. (Ken Hansen arrives). In his pitch, Schroeder will mention Boy Scout troop, NYC interns, and that we are in a good position to leverage volunteers on this project within the next two months. Eagle Scout candidate Chad Paulsen will be invited to appear at the work session. Foreman advised not to overwhelm the council with guests at a work session, and that 1-2 people is appropriate. To ensure no problems with eagle nests talk to Brandon Saito. Foreman offered to be there upon Schroeder's request.

**Marine Programs:** Schroeder still had not heard back from MCAF regarding the stimulus proposal. Expects to hear by July 1<sup>st</sup>. ITN has been approached by Sunaq tribal council to put together a proposal for a 3-month clean-up of the road system to be completed by end of September. Foreman moved to direct staff to pursue contract with Sunaq tribe on marine debris programs not to exceed \$20,000. Saltonstall seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**NYC internship program:** Schroeder gave overview of three week internship to consist of 8 students and 2 chaperones from Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School in New York, NY. Activities will include work on several local trails, including Near Island trails, a marine debris clean-up at Shuyak Island SP, and a bear viewing trip to Koniag's lodge at Camp Island. Whipple requested a BBQ inviting board members to meet the interns. Schroeder will plan one and issue an invitation to the board.

## **New Business:**

**ONC 17-B easement trail:** Schroeder gave overview of easement trail connecting the end of the road at Anton Larsen Bay to Three Pillar point near Sharatin Bay. Schroeder summarized history of ONC's approaching us over a year ago to complete the installation, and the structure and procedure of an NRCS Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project (WHIP), whereby a grant recipient (ONC) or their chosen contractor (ITN) is reimbursed for a trail hardening project on a per-square-foot basis. Cole said a new program is in place that fronts the money for materials. Whipple is not being advanced any funds as her contract is several years old, but was paid within 30 days of the installation. Contracts can range from 1-10 years, but it's usually most cost effective to finish earlier. Cost share programs may also be available for reseeding and restoring vegetation. Whipple said ONC has been concerned about impacts on their trails since she was at the borough. Foreman requested imagery, better numbers at the next meeting, and a further discussion about political ramifications and a public relations plan. Schroeder will also run the numbers to cost out the trail construction and research financing options.

**KNWR MOU:** Brian Glaspell hosted the head of the Refuge System for Alaska He's a trails enthusiast. He asked why there isn't a trail from town to the refuge, and why don't we have more trails on refuge land? Gary Wheeler began a conversation with Brian on the subject of and MOU between ITN and the refuge to share resources, establish new trails and maintain existing trails. Simultaneously, Brian was told to hire a brand new position on the refuge under the title Outdoor Recreation Specialist. He will hire the position this fiscal year.

Glaspell will draft the MOU. An MOU with the refuge could cover refuge supporting agreed upon missions on paid work time. Could cover shared resources such as facilities, air travel, with no costs to ITN at this point.

Foreman moved that Andy and Brian work together to draft a KNWR/ITN MOU. Saltonstall seconded. Passed 4-0.

## **Audience Comments:**

**Hans Tschersich:** Is hiking and biking on Pillar Mountain trail. Traffic is kicking up a lot of dust. Major recreational trail has become dangerous. Believes the wind turbines will be a major attraction and encourage more dangerous traffic. Provided ITN a copy of his letter to the city. Options included to close the road entirely, issue permits to drive the road, or Iron Ranger pay box. Income could defray costs of policing the whole area. Foreman: Is there a spray available that could suppress dust? Call TC Kamai, mention it to Aimee, get Darron Scott's perspective. Maybe KEA has some money for mitigation? Be careful about stopping traffic on the mountain, because it could ban hikers too.

Talk to Aimee about making sure there is signage. Schroeder should report on this by next meeting.

**Betsy Lund:** Be aware of what the implied growth in ITN under a contract this size would mean to your membership.

**Director Comments:**

**None:**

**Upcoming Meetings:** .Sometime week of July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

**Also present:** Betsy Lund, Hans Tschersich.