

SOUTHERN LAKES REGIONAL METROPOLITAN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
**Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**6:00pm**  
**150 S. Leroy St.**  
**Fenton, MI 48430**

**Call to Order**

Chairperson, Ray Culbert called the Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance**

Present: Ray Culbert, Scott Grossmeyer, Christine Reid, Brenda Simons  
Delayed: Rob Kesler, Patricia Lockwood  
Roll Call: Mr. Culbert declared there was a quorum with four board members  
Staff Present: Karoline Mayville, Shirley Ciofu, Diane Sokoloski  
Public Present: Jeffrey Huhta, Project Engineer NFE and list of community attendees on file

**Action Item: Motion to go into Public Hearing**

Chairperson Culbert announced the purpose of this public hearing is to discuss SLPR's Board resolution in support of the submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the development of the Silver Lake Road connector trail.

Moved by Mr. Culbert, seconded by Ms. Simons to begin Public Hearing at 6:04pm

Motion Carried: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Mr. Culbert asked the board members and staff to introduce themselves.

**Call to the Audience:**

Chairperson, Ray Culbert asked the public for comments on the grant.

Connie Tabor of Fenton: Will it be passed with a millage vote and after ten years dropped or renewed? Noah Morgan, member of the SLPI committee, stated that can't be answered at this time. Ms. Tabor asked why was 10 years picked to which Mr. Morgan stated that's how long it would take to fund the project cost and was the time frame given by the engineers.

Board Commissioners, Patricia Lockwood and Robert Kesler arrived.

Tim Draeger of Fenton Township: Stated the trail plan passes through private property commonly held by a homeowner's association. Who is liable? Jeff Huhta, NFEEngineering, stated there will be a time for securing an easement from the association and that SLPR will carry the liability. Mr. Huhta further stated tonight is about the grant submission and more information (on easement) will follow at a later date.

Victor Lukasavitz of Linden and member of the LAFF Pathway Group: Noted there are three groups of people in the know on this and they are the League of Michigan Bicyclist, the Michigan Trails and Greenway Alliance, Michigan Department of Transportation, State Bicycle Coordinator, and a group called Bike Law. They have people dealing with these issues or scenarios daily and have answers available to the public on the trail topics.

Dennis Cox of Fenton: What is the grant? Mr. Huhta described the bundle of grants to which SLPR is applying. He stated Genesee County TAP grant has already committed to \$441,000 in funding, the DNRTF grant, which is being discussed tonight, is \$300,000 in funding for the Silver Lake connector trail, then later a grant from MDOT TAP for approximately \$1,000,000 will be applied for. He further noted the cost estimate for the Silver Lake connector is 2.1-2.4 million. The goal is to pay for the costs with the grant and a match by the community. Mr. Huhta explained the Silver Lake connector will connect downtown Linden with downtown Fenton. The plan is to eventually connecting with Argentine Township where the construction of their trails is set to begin next year.

Patricia Lockwood, Vice Chair SLPR Board of Commissioner: Stated the people will be asked to vote on a millage that would fund the non-motorized trail on May 7<sup>th</sup>. She further stated this hearing is to get input on the grant that would partially fund the Silver Lake road piece and that the entire pathway will cost an estimated 14 million. She emphasized that Silver Lake road is just one piece and the grant being discussed is just for that portion. Ms. Lockwood stated the LAFF Pathway group has committed matching funds in the amount of \$48,000 with the City of Linden, City of Fenton, and Fenton Township committing \$15,000 each. She further stated that a campaign organization has been established called Southern Lakes Pathway Initiative (SLPI)

Carol Sullivan of Fenton: What kind of protection will we have for people when walking? Will there be protection against kidnapping and people hiding out in bushes? Mr. Huhta explained part of the design is to have the trail in the public right of way areas. He stated as part of the grant process, we had to answer the question of police protection. He further stated Linden and Fenton police together with Genesee County Sheriff's office will patrol segments of the path proximity of the roadways and that the path is in clear vision areas.

Noah Morgan of Linden and SLPI committee member: Stated for clarification, the trail segment discussed goes from Jennings Road to Triangle Park.

Pat O'Sullivan of Fenton: What stretch are we talking about? Mr. O'Sullivan held up the map that the SLPI committee had shared. He also asked are the dotted lines on the map for the future? And what is the distance? Mr. Huhta stated the Silver Lake connector is 2 miles and Fenton Road 3 miles and Owen Road 2 miles and meet the requirements for width and have a two foot gravel shoulder on both sides. He further stated we are only talking about the Silver Lake Road piece tonight.

Tracy Bottecelli of Fenton: What are the benefits to the community? Mr. Huhta described many components including a healthy lifestyle, connectivity between Fenton and Linden, access to cultural resources, commuting, fishing opportunities with access to the Shiawassee River, access to restaurants, programs at the Community Center, connects to parks and removes the current safety hazard. Mr. Huhta further stated that the Silver Lake connector has been identified through community engagement as a top priority for safety.

David Panzlau of Fenton Township: Stated his support of the grant application. He further explained his health plan is to get out and exercise and stated his excitement to be connected up with and get to Owen Road for recreation opportunities. He further stated this grant doesn't involve paying out any money at this point.

Nathan Loersch of Fenton: Stated he is Pastor of Shepard of the Lakes Church and Fenton cross country track coach and loves running. He further stated the kids run on Silver Lake Road and he's concerned about their safety. He supports the Silver Lake Road connector and later wants Owen Road.

Kelley Phillips of Fenton Township: How long will it take if the millage passes? Mr. Huhta stated construction would start Fall of 2021 to which Ms. Phillips replied the sooner the better.

Mike Gabler of Fenton: Stated he's very much in favor. He said he biked from Holly to Fenton on Grange Hall Road and will not do it again for safety reasons. He further stated he's a realtor and his clients want access to downtown. He said people are attracted to communities with a pathway and it increases property values. Mr. Gabler said he can't see any reason not to support it it's a huge attraction.

Patty O'Sullivan of Fenton Township: What's necessary to get it (millage) passed? Ms. Lockwood explained it's a majority vote and it's on the ballot for City of Fenton, City of Linden, Fenton Township which is the SLPR district. She also stated there will be more to come from the campaign committee.

Victor Lukasavitz of Linden: Stated he's been highly involved as a member of LAFF Pathways and said he has biked trails all over the country and Silver Lake Road is the most dangerous he's been on. He further stated that the trail will remove the safety factor, improve quality of life, and have a positive impact. Mr. Lukasavitz also stated every City wants to attract visitors and a trail enhances the community.

Connie Tabor of Fenton: Second statement: Is the vote on May 7<sup>th</sup> for the grant or millage? And what will it cost the individual? Ms. Lockwood responded that the average cost of homes in the three communities is around \$200,000 with an assessed value of \$100,000 so the average homeowner would pay about \$10 per month for the millage.

Tom Draeger of Fenton Township: Second statement: Stated he appreciates all the comments about riding the trails. He said he gets it and thinks it's fantastic, but wants to make sure it gets done appropriately. He asked if the millage is for construction and what about maintenance to which Mr. Huhta answered yes and a fund has been developed for maintenance. Mr. Huhta further stated that a portion of the millage is dedicated for maintenance too. Mr. Draeger asked what about the engineering? How will the homeowners know it will be good? Mr. Huhta said a town hall meeting will be held where all impacted homeowners will be invited to see the plans, followed by individual meetings with each impacted homeowner to discuss concerns, followed by execution of an easement document.

Scott Grossmeyer, SLPR Board Commissioner responded to Mr. Draeger's concerns about maintenance after the 10 years saying there may be a request for an extension for maintenance, but it doesn't have to be the same amount. It could be less.

Jesse Anderson of Flint: Stated he coaches cross country and track and acknowledged that a maintenance fund is already set up in the bank waiting for the trails. He also stated grant money comes up every year and we've never had a project before. He further stated that there are not enough safe routes for runners.

Ron Stack of Fenton: Commented on Jesse Anderson's statement and explained the fund is held at the Community Foundation of Greater Flint stating it's an endowment fund with compounded interest. He further said after the millage dries up then the savings kicks in with just the interest being spent not the principal.

Carol Sullivan of Fenton: Second statement: Is the 1.2 million for all four communities? Ms. Lockwood said this grant addresses Silver Lake Road and the communities involved are City of Linden, City of Fenton and Fenton Township.

Dennis Cox of Fenton: If it's non-motorized are horse allowed? Ms. Lockwood stated no and a committee has been formed to address issues like that. She also explained that the committee has researched other communities where pathways have been developed and noted Sterling Heights had a successful campaign and project and can be used as a model.

Hal Bennett of Linden: Asked where to get information on the trail and was given a map of the trail and

directed to the campaign website for information and meeting dates.

Victor Lukasavitz of Linden: Second statement: Stated a safety use ordinance was passed in Argentine Township that can be reviewed.

Pat O'Sullivan of Fenton Township: Second statement: Asked about the other segments. Mr. Huhta explained we can apply for grants for the other segments too and a strategy will be addressed when the time comes.

Ashley Morris: Will the path on Owen Road be on both sides? She stated concerns about her yard and driveway being in the path. Mr. Huhta explained the trail scoping had not yet been done. Ms. Lockwood stated the engineers will determine that using input from the public on Owen Road. She further stated public meetings to address this will be held by the campaign committee and the public will be notified of the meetings in the paper and on the website.

Mr. Huhta explained Tier 1 and Tier 2 pathway priority stating the Silver Lake Road connector is consider high priority and rated as Tier 1.

Chairman Ray Culbert asked for any further questions to which there were none and asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. Kesler to close the public hearing at 6:58pm  
Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

Public Comments closed: 6:58pm

**Action Item: Approval of the MNRTF Grant Application Resolution of Support**

Mr. Huhta explained that after further investigation, the numbers for the financial commitment had to be changed on the grant document and resolution because certain items such as storm drains and curbs were not eligible for the DNR Trust Fund Grant. The resolution changed the financial commitment and donations as follows: \$1,699,700 (84%) of a total of \$1,999,700 project cost.

Ms. Lockwood noted the other sources that donated to the grant match - which are listed on the resolution as follows: from Genesee County TAP \$441,500, LAFF Pathways \$48,000, and \$15,000 each from the City of Fenton, Linden and Fenton Township for local match commitment of \$534,500.

Motion by Ms. Reid, seconded by Mr. Grossmeyer to approve the resolution which will authorize the submission of the MNRTF grant application for \$300,000 and to make available a local match through financial commitment and donations, as stated with the changes, of \$1,699,700 which is 84% of the total of \$1,999,700 project cost during the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Roll Call:

Christine Reid	Yes
Patricia Lockwood	Yes
Brenda Simons	Yes
Scott Grossmeyer	Yes
Robert Kessler	Yes
Ray Culbert	Yes

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

Ms. Ciofu, Accounting Coordinator and Recording Secretary to the board notarized the resolution and it was given to Mr. Huhta for his submission.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of the Agenda
- Approval of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Regular Board meeting minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report:
  - Bills paid prior to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in the amount of \$88,378.45
  - Financial Statements

Motion by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. Kesler to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion Carried: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays

**Presentation of the SLPR 2018 Annual Report**

Diane Sokoloski made the video presentation noting it can be found on 'youtube'. She also made the powerpoint presentation of the annual statistical data report for 2018. The video was well received. It was the consensus to try and merge the events video with the boring stats report.

**Programmers:** Ms. Mayville highlighted the upcoming Dance Recital and Health & Wellness Expo. She also stated that she and Nancy Muffley had presented the Farmer's Market, Back to the Bricks, Artwalk and Concert budgets to the Fenton DDA for approval. All grants were approved. Ms. Mayville also noted the youth wrestling program finished their season with 14 participants qualifying for finals and 6 of them placing fourth.

Ms. Ciofu passed out Wellness Expo information and noted that the expo will have 7 different speakers in breakout sessions with vendors in the main hall and fitness demonstrations.

**Commissioner's Comments:**

Mr. Grossmeyer thanked everyone for their thoughts and support of him and his wife.

Ms. Lockwood thanked staff and board for their help with the pathway process noting the LAFF group did a good job getting it all organized. She also acknowledged the engineers and the fantastic job they're doing keeping us in line. Ms. Lockwood asked Ms. Mayville how things were going at the Community Center in Mr. Paris' absence. Ms. Mayville explained scheduling and maintenance are usual but there were unexpected inspection costs that had to be authorized.

**Accounting Report:**

Ms. Ciofu informed the finance committee that the pre audit meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am. She also informed the board that fraud questionnaires would be sent at random to board members. Ms. Ciofu also reminded the board that the finance committee would still need to meet to discuss how to allocate the 2018 net income to the equipment and facility funds. Mr. Culbert stated that would take place following the audit meeting in April.

**Director's Report:**

Interim Director, Karoline Mayville answered the board's request for information on why the AAU volleyball uniforms were not as nice as other teams. Ms. Mayville presented a breakdown on what the participation fees cover and noted that 10% or roughly \$30 of the total \$330 fee goes to uniforms with the rest going toward coaches, equipment, facilities, tournaments, and other admin costs. She also stated she looked at other area leagues for comparison and discovered they charge \$600-\$650 which is double what SLPR charges. She explained some teams can afford to purchase the 'Nike Elite' package for head to toe uniforms because of

their higher fees. It was the board's consensus to have Ms. Mayville look at other ways to fund nicer uniforms than to raise the fees. Ms. Lockwood asked that AAU uniforms be put on the agenda for further discussion.

**Next Meeting;**

Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Fenton Community Center

**Adjournment**

Chairperson Culbert adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary, Shirley Ciofu