

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 21st, 2015**

Committee Members Present: Karen Mulari (C), Larry Knutson, Ben Grimsley, Lonnie Neuner, Hank Ludtke, Del Bergseth, Dennis Hopman

Staff Present: Guy Fischer, Eric Evenson

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Mark Fritz, Jeff Staley, Willis Mattison, Neal Powers, Jerry Schram, Matthew Davis

1. Chair Welcome/Introductions:

- June Meeting Minutes approved; Ludtke motion, Neuner 2nd – motion carried.
- July Agenda approved; Ludtke motion, 2nd Neuner – motion carried

2. Open Forum: -

3. IMBA Presentation:

- Mark Fritz presented study findings – seeking IMBA certification (Bronze level) as part of effort to draw Mt. bikers from the region and beyond. Trends in Mt. biking (50 million Mt. bikers in U.S.; 86% male, 14% female, with the female segment growing). Discussion of other trail plans (DL and Heartland Trail) and opportunities as identified within the study: Shell Lake, Wolf Lake, Detroit Mt., Mt. View, Dunton Locks.

Per ride center evaluation (25 mile radius of Detroit Mt.): 25 mile minimum requirement for Bronze designation and applicable trail elements that would create this designation (Detroit Mt., Mt. View and Dunton Locks) and then shoot for silver designation (46 miles minimum) which brings in other areas such as Shell Lake, Wolf Lake, lands adjacent to Mt. View.

Seeking RAC support of IMBA study, suggested letters of support (Frazee, Wolf Lake, other) and County Resolution of Support for Legacy Funding.

RAC/audience discussion: seasonal closures, impact on land, duration of trail being open (25 years), management agreement and costs associated with trail upkeep; Detroit Mt. charges \$5 day pass or \$50 seasonal pass, suggested small user fee, 5% of trail build out cost is what is estimated that it will cost annually to maintain (Fritz). Knutson would not support fee, but explore possible contribution relative to ongoing maintenance. Grimsley suggested looking at a pay box for donations.

Staley noted that Mt. View trails were currently designed for more advanced riding and that the current fee structure at Detroit Mt. was \$5 day for Mt./bikers and \$5/vehicle for walkers. Interested in creating uniformity in signage and related recreational elements so that the trails and recreational experience for users would flow together.

Re: Mt. View – Staley noted that the IMBA study suggests adding 1.7 miles of new recreational Mt. bike trail development (IMBA study: conceptual loop already exists (1.7 mi.); intermediate in nature and redevelopment of existing trails to include beginner and intermediate mt. bike trails). Currently there is approximately 3.5 miles of mt. bike trails at Mt. View.

Regional significance to Mt. View? (Grimsley) Move Mt. View under Detroit Mt. umbrella; Mulari – IMBA consistent with SHIP efforts to increase recreational opportunities.

Davis – what are County’s maintenance protocols? – Mt. View condition of trails/mowing; use of sentence to serve; Knutson to look into it.

Per Resolution of support - why wouldn't we do this? (Bergseth/Neuner/Hopman); If necessary get a group to hammer out details on fee structure (Mulari). Hopman Motion to Recommend to County Board to support having Mt. View be part of Detroit Mt.'s legacy application effort . Motion 2nd by (Neuner). Motion passed unanimously.

4. Recreation Planning

- Per planning interest in using \$ for trail/related project development; don't want a plan to sit on the shelf (Grimsley). Mattison – Plan/strategic process will help identify what you want to do, the resources necessary to do it and track the results. Suggested RAC/interested stakeholders view a Trail Town webinar that would be available on July 30th and could be accessed through his account. Additional/related planning webinar available now. Mulari expressed support for the Trail Town webinar idea. Powers thought that a consultant hired for planning purposes could provide new insights and help the RAC be more effective and provide cover and lend confidence to decision making. Also provide opportunity for others to come to the table to express their views. Facilitation mentioned. Grimsley – interested in mini successes such as Mt. View and Shell Lake Block. Mulari suggested lets start with the Trails Town webinar on July 30th. RAC members agreed. Mattison asked to follow-up with details – staff to facilitate.

5. Next meeting for RAC members/stakeholders: Trail Towns webinar scheduled for July 30th from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the EOC Rm. (3rd Flr. Courthouse).

6. Meeting Adjourned.