

Root River Trail Extension - Citizens Exploratory Committee
Meeting minutes.

Date: August 14, 2024

Location: Houston Nature Center, Houston, MN

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director.

Members Present: Jay Wheaton - Houston, Larry Stryker – La Crescent, Dick Wieser – La Crescent, Ben Horn – Houston County, Jake Olson – Hokah

Members Absent: Jason Kraft – Houston County (excused), Kevin Walther – Hokah

Others Present: Allison Wagner, Houston County, Margaret Knutson, Houston Chamber of Commerce

2. July 10, 2024 Minutes - Acceptance

Larry Kirch asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. There were no changes or corrections and the minutes were accepted by consensus.

3. Discussion Items -

- a. Trail Plan - The City of Hokah is hopefully going to approve the plan on September 3rd.
- b. Review Survey Parcels Legals Info – Larry Kirch and Jay Wheaton went through the information provided by Hein Bloem with Christina Peterson and it appears that the Sather family did reserve a trail through the property as part of the sale to the state. Larry will forward the paperwork to the DNR for their review. Larry K had inquired about this to the DNR in August of 2023 and the state was looking for the information. This material appears to be the information that the DNR was looking for and so Larry K said he would send it on to the DNR for their review. Larry K would begin to update a spreadsheet with current ownership for the committee to review at the next meeting.
- c. MnDOT IJA Technical Assistance Grant – Wagon Wheel Trail – Miller’ Corner - Larry K stated that the city provided the data it had from the DNR on cross sectional data of the corridor and the city’s consulting engineer obtained the MnDOT Right-of-Way from District 6. MnDOT asked the city’s engineer to create a 3D model of the corridor using this information.

- d. Federal Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Planning and Design Grant - Status The ATIIP grant was submitted and accepted into the Grants.gov system. It is not certain how long the review process will take.
- e. Drafting of Joint Powers Agreement – The City Attorney for La Crescent was going to give Larry K a timetable on drafting a JPA.

4. Root River Trail Towns - Membership Approval for La Crescent

Hokah will take up the issue on September 3rd. There is not a lot of incentive to join at this point as the brochures have been updated and La Crescent and Hokah are not listed in the most recent brochure. Chatfield is a member and does not have a trail but they are active in promoting the trail and their community as a member of the trail towns organization.

5. RRTE-CEC membership status – City of Houston

Margaret Knutson was present at the meeting. Margaret has not been formally appointed to the group as of yet.

6. Public Comment – None

7. Next Meeting – September 25th at the Wired Rooster in Caledonia

8. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Meeting minutes drafted by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director