

Bayfield Area Trails Committee Meeting Notes
Tuesday July 13th @ 3 – 4:45 pm

Call to Order – Introduce guests from Cornucopia

- Peter Rothe – part-time resident, with home on Roman’s Point. Recently retired with plans to spend significant time in Cornucopia. Especially interested in silent sports.
- Gordo Anderson – full-time resident. On the Town of Bell Plan Commission and Parks & Rec. Committee.

Committee Members Present: Finn, Kitchell, Bratsch, Lang, Fahrenkrog

Others Present: Fentress & Johnson from communications subcommittee; Wegerson from volunteer subcommittee.

Round Robin Reports from Committee members:

- Ashwabay (Finn)
 - Board signed a resolution requesting that the County place a moratorium on proposed timber sale until there is an opportunity to negotiate an MOU with AWB to facilitate compatible use between trails and timber harvesting.
 - Discussion: these concerns were not communicated during the recent 15-year planning process; however, the new 15-year plan has AWB as a special management area, recognizing its value for recreation and trails.
- City (Kitchell)
 - Big Ravine:
 - most of the trailhead and directional signs are in;
 - school trail will be constructed in August by Trails Anonymous, thereby completing this phase of the trails program;
 - Kitchell & Sheree Peterson evaluated a re-route option to address wet sections on the Striped Skunk Trail and they determined there would be no benefit from a re-route; more boardwalk will be added in late August;
 - East Rim – gravel and boardwalk work planned for late August and early Sept.
 - Waterfront Walk project is out with request for bids. Hoping to get this done this season.
- County (Bratsch) (sign MOU?)
 - County is very supportive of recreation and increasing recreation on County forests. They may be considering additional staffing focused on recreation.
 - Siskiwit: there is a little extra funding in the grant, so Jen is exploring the option of more trails on the West side.
 - Fire Tower Hill: discussion about possible signage and a parking area to get things started. Marking the boundaries, a little more clearly, could be helpful too. This would be a good step as Gracie’s Trail becomes visible and more used.
- Landmark (Lang)
 - Brownstone: people are using the reroute;
 - will be holding an advisory committee meeting fairly soon; they hope to get input about the level of interest and support for purchasing the Maki property.
 - Issues on Lakeshore Dr. where the Rineharts built new driveway and the trail has been changed. This needs to be assessed and options determined. More info. to follow.
 - Planning work to spread gravel on the section north of Blue Wing Bay Rd.
 - Also planning to renovate the steps south of Blue Wing Bay Rd. in late Aug.
 - Baseline report has been initiated in coordination with Northland College.
 - There will be stations along the Brownstone during the Cliff Swim

- Carol F. asked about providing some clarifying information for her to give visitors at the Chamber and to be posted at the kiosk by the boat ramp.
- NPS (Van Stappen) – not present
- Red Cliff (VanBergen) – not present
- Town (Fahrenkrog) (sign MOU?) – nothing notable from the Town beyond the work on Big Ravine trails and the wetlands (discussed below)

Communications Reports (Jeannette & Kitchell)

- Website doing well: 321 users; 85% new
 - Added Gracie's Trail and Hatchery connections to the online connections map
- Facebook: 351 followers – goal is 500 by end of year
- The Committee reviewed and discussed Tony's plans for FB posts. Assignments were made to provide Tony with content. See attached list.
 - This includes messages related to the RESPECT outreach campaign

Volunteer Activities Update (Kitchell, Ipsen & Wegerson)

- Gracie's Trail: 6 vols. Did most of the work in mid-June); a little more grubbing needed; signage; map at North Ravine trailhead and on website
- Steps at base of Pine Bluff added on June 29 (5 vols.)
- Gil Larsen short extension – added 200+ feet on June 29 (7 vols.)
- Big Ravine West Side boardwalk postponed – considering alternative routing; site visit on July 14 determined that re-route would have no benefits; more boardwalk will be added in late Aug.

Project Calendar Status & Outlook (review calendar)

- Hatchery connection – walk the route; initiate coordination with DNR/State
- West Side Boardwalk – will be installed with the help of Northland trail crew on August 26th
- Mainland Trail – July 27 - 30
- Jerry Jolly Maintenance? – TBD by Jen
- School Trail Construction – start 8/15 – expect 5 days
- East Rim wet areas – initiate work with Northland students on August 25th
- Brownstone Steps – Remove steps on August 24th by Northland students;
 - Construct steps 9/27 – 10/2
- Gil Larsen Waterfall Walkway - October

Private Land Trail Crossings

- Posted info. on the website - Tony
- Private land crossings outreach with receptive landowners: E. Rim, Bayfield Hill, Orchards
 - Finn easement: Chuck mentioned that the County recorder's office did not accept document. Erika suggested calling to discuss and to revise. We can learn from this to develop a better standard template.
 - Gracie's Trail
 - Larson land donation on East Rim Trail (Kitchell) - August
 - Daum crossing on East Rim Trail (Kitchell)
 - Clark property (Kitchell & Lang)
- Do web blog and FB posts on 1) Final recording of Finn easement; 2) Gracie's Trail; 3) Larson land donations, when done.

Proposal to acquire Big Ravine Headwater Wetlands (Kitchell, Fahrenkrog, Lang)

- Secured funding for appraisal – appraisal contract initiated (Lang)

- Short landowner agreement letter (Lang)
- Resolutions of support from Town and County pending
- Grant submitted through Town to USFWS Joint Venture Great Lakes Restoration Initiative June 15 for +/- 50%
- Submit DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant app. via Landmark 8/1
- Submit grant to USFWS Joint Venture NAWCA small grants 10/7, if needed.

Fiscal sponsorship: action pending Finn & Kitchell will explore this with RFR when time is right

Meet the Cornucopia Trails Club (CTC): Discuss collaboration opportunities (20 min.)

Overview from Peter & Gordo:

- Mission similar to BAT Comm.
- Geographic focus around Cornucopia & Town of Bell
- Core group of 5 members with other community members expressing interest to help
- Working on getting more volunteers to participate in trail planning and improvement
- They have incorporated in order to get insurance to be able to do work on County land
- Still evaluating whether or not to become a full non-profit 501c3 organization
- Most of their interest is on silent sport trails, but they recognize the needs/benefits of motorized. Discussion pointed out safety concerns with XC trails crossing snowmobile trails.
- Current focus is Pratt's Peak (2nd highest point in the County) & Cloud Lake in the western area of the Town of Bayfield on County forest land.
 - County has been great to work with: they are re-inventorying the forest to coordinate trails planning and management.
 - Working on developing a trails plan & laying out trails, primarily using logging roads.
 - Tentative trail off of Settlement Dump Road
 - Also interested in creating some vista viewpoints doing some clearing
- Other future areas:
 - "Swenson Preserve," now referred to as Siskiwit Falls area now managed by the County.
 - Lost Creek Falls – more mountain bike access
- Discussion about collaborations:
 - Coordination between CTC and BATs could support achieving common goals and reduce conflict/competition, especially on Pratt's Peak area.
 - Volunteer program & procedures could be shared

Initiate discussion about broadening scope of BAT geography and organizational options:

- Make this the focus of the next meeting. Skip the round robin and other reports to allow full time on this topic as well as the next topic.

Start to think about Trails Forum and Celebration – Fall?

Discuss meeting date & time: Is this working? Do we need to change (e.g. early a.m. is better for Carol)

Adjourn: NEXT MEETING: August 17th @ 3 p.m.

Future Agendas:

- Scope of BAT geography and organizational options
- Re-engaging other partners in meetings etc.: How to re-engage CAMBA and NCCA and other partner groups in our meetings and activities. 1) Invite partners on the MOU to regular meetings? 2) Open meetings to email list?