



State of Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Council on Greenways & Trails
June 19, 2018, 9:30 am to 12:00
Location: Auburn Heights Mansion
3000 Creek Road, Box 36, Yorklyn, DE 19736

Meeting Minute Highlights

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Minutes Review

- No Quorum to pass minutes – remain in draft form

New Business (01:30-43:30)

- Governor - vision and level of support for trail development and funding. Governor spoke about his long term involvement of land preservation (like Middle Run and WCCSP) and need for public participation. Important part for residents is free time recreation and alternative transportation options. Support of healthy lifestyles and access to trails and parks important part of infrastructure and development of that infrastructure. Spoke about parks and trails as best kept secret and how we need to do better to promote them. Council helps set priorities and make decisions on recreation funding and projects Vision: make sure we take care of what we have instead of charging ahead on new projects (Kirk brought up nature center vs projects we don't need in WCC). Spoke to funding gaps and sources. 21 Century funds was one source example – state money earmarked for state park projects. Gary brought up how we could have a fee (such as car registration) to have the parks open to everyone without gate fees. Volunteer efforts should be elevated. John brought up Council member openings. . Garvin spoke to expanding diversity of park use and how we balance conflicting interests (raccoon hunting brought up). Good to push funding envelope. Conversation about greater Wilmington trail network existing trails and near term and future connections.
- Park Finder (44:30 – 57:50) Mike Krumrine. Playoutside - web based. Interface to find outdoor recreation sites (boat launches, trails, playgrounds, tennis courts, etc). Needs to include accessibility. How do we promote it?
- Park and Trail Marketing and Public Relations (58:00 – 1:25): Abby Shepard and Alex Huey. Overview of marketing tools. Radio ads, online display ads, You Tube, print ads, partnerships (Go Ape), social media, newsletters, blogs, expos, video campaigns, etc. Facebook , Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram are major social media platforms used. Photo contests, instameets. Know your audience – matters who and how we target. Pre schedule automatic messaging. Must keep posting content. Building social communities. Very fast “refreshing” required for content to keep people interested. 360 camera and video posting. Review of analytics. Suggestions on what could be done to promote Playoutside – utilize Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Continuing Business

- SCORP update - Bill Miller (1:25 -1:27). Over 2000 surveys and representative of population. Trail activities most popular and facilities related to trails. Respondants said (96%) outdoor recreation important, (90%) trails are an important priority, and (56%) trails are a necessity. SCORP report will be finalized by end of September.
- Trail Bond Bill Funds fiscal report – Matt Chesser (1:27 – 1:36).
 - 2013-2015: close to cleaning up old accounts.

- 2016-2017: 4.1M remaining. Projects include Cape Henlopen Rail Trail (rail and tie removal), NVF, Tri-Valley, Killens Pond Spillway Trail, Holts Landing, Assawoman Canal Underpass, and Little Jersey Trail
- Delaware Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails (ORPT) grant program – Bob Ehemann (1:36 – 1:41)
 - Pre-applications requests reviewed in May
 - Subcommittee (joint council meeting) concluded with recommendations in June
 - 1.04M to be distributed. 3.77M in requests (29)
- White Clay Master Plan - Bill Miller (1:42 – 1:44). Gave a review of master plan process
 - Just beginning open houses and survey. 4 open houses scheduled presenting current conditions
 - Natural Resources and Interpretation
 - Buildings/Infrastructure
 - Trails and Roads
 - Recreation
 - Draft plan by end of year
- Recreational Trails Program project report – David Bartoo (1:44 – 1:54). Overview of ongoing federal projects
 - Tri-Valley 90% complete. Issue with obtaining county building permit for restroom at new trailhead resolved. New construction schedule set for spring 2018 - White Clay (\$1M)
 - Possum Hill Accessible Trail (98% complete) - White Clay (\$64K). On hold until grass seed planted
 - Charles Bailey Trail - White Clay (\$200K). All bridges purchased, first bridge installed working on second bridge.
 - Newark Projects : Rittenhouse Bridge Maintenance and Redd Park Bridge and Trail Maintenance (\$56K). Rittenhouse complete. Redd Park 95% done.
 - Little Jersey Trailhead –Lums Pond (\$88K). Redesigned and slated for later this year
 - NVF – Auburn Valley Trail System utilizing historic bridges from across the country (\$2,340,519). 50% complete. Regional Trail Planning effort
 - Holts Landing Trail Loop (\$281K). In planning and engineering.
- Trails Program project report (current and future)– David Bartoo: Overview of ongoing state projects
 - Fork Branch Trail. West Dover. Complete.
 - Assawoman Canal Rt 26 underpass phase 2. In design engineering
 - Tri – Valley Trail phase 2. Waiting on county permit. Will be RTP project. Connect TVT phase 1 to Paper Mill Park. Will go out to bid this year
 - Paper Mill Road Culvert. 2019 construction.
 - Killens Pond Spillway Trail . In design engineering

Updates – David Bartoo (1:54 – 2:02)

- Update on Killens Pond State Park Trail Plan– David Bartoo: public open house. Main trail destination for Kent County. Planning to double trail miles and adding a lot of natural surface biking and hiking trails. – Completed. In internal review.
- Update on Cape Henlopen State Park Trail Plan – David Bartoo: public open house – Completed. In internal review.
- Update on Brandywine Creek State Park Trail Plan – David Bartoo: Still being reviewed internally.
- Savannah Road Bike Ped improvement and Georgetown/Lewes Rail
- JMT (Jack Markell Trail, aka Industrial Tract Trail) – Chip Kneavel. Trail scheduled to be open in September
- Milton Rail Trail (DelDOT). Planning on-going. Some funding set aside
- DelDOT bike plan is out

Recreational Trail Users Updates (2:02 – 2:10)

- Hiking - Gary Kirk Wilmington Trail Club – hike across Delaware Nov 3. Along the canal.
- Biking – No Report
- Equestrian – Laura (Guest Equestrian) Lums equestrian center is up for bid. Briefly discussed potential concessions. Great way for public to see the parks.

Announcements/Other Items (2:10 – 2:12)

- Topics for Future agendas
 - Delaware Greenway Trail effort linking PA and DE along the Brandywine.

Next Council meeting –October 9, 2018 Brecknock Park Nature Center.

Adjourn - motion to adjourn. Accepted and approved.

Attendees:

Council Members

John Martin
Gary Kirk
Jeanne Rapley

Legislative Members

Agency Members

Todd Pryor DelDOT
Ray Bivens DNREC
Shawn Garvin DNREC

Division of Parks & Recreation

David Bartoo
Mike Krumrine

Guests

Thomas “Chip” Kneavel DelDOT
Laura Johnson