

**Polly Ann Trail Management Council, Inc.**  
**23 East Elmwood, P.O. Box 112, Leonard, Michigan 48367 (248) 969-8660**

**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of January 16, 2004**  
**9:30 A.M.**

**Members Present:** Eugene Mallia, Chairperson  
Robert Koski, Vice-Chairperson  
James Marleau, Treasurer  
Mark Slown, Secretary  
Gerald Dywasuk  
Shirley Clancy  
Kallie Roesner

**Absent:** Ed Brakefield  
Renee Donovan  
Pauline Blanka

**Also Present:** Amy Murray, Trail Manager  
Larry Obrecht (10:30)

**Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Chairperson Mallia called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Murray called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Koski moved, Slown seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of 'Policy on Development along the Trail' under New Business. All ayes, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Slown moved, Dwasuk seconded to approve the special meeting minutes from January 9, 2004 with corrections for Orion Twp. in place of Lake Orion, and clarifying PATMC vs. Oxford Village Council, and that Ms. Clancy's request regarding a bridge picture read 'picture reflecting what plans represent'. All Ayes, motion carried.

Dwasuk suggested a sign-in sheet be set up for guests to meetings, and Marleau that we ensure that meetings are posted on outside of Rowland Hall within 18 hours of meetings.

**Public Comment:**

None

### **Treasurers Report:**

Chairman Mallia reviewed bills approved last meeting (Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>) and asked Member Clancy to inform OAYA that their recent check to us was deposited. Koski moved, Marleau seconded to approve the checks #'s 1673 – 1677 totaling \$891.34, for bill run of \$3,391.34 including Manager Murray's contract payment. **Motion approved unanimously on a Roll Call Vote.** Treasurer Marleau noted that we have renewed our contract with Lynn Gustafson for accounting services and he considers her work very good.

### **Trail Managers Report:**

Manager Murray reviewed January 9<sup>th</sup> report, highlighting the work to connect the Polly Ann Trail and the Paint Creek Trail, grant applications for development in Orion, and public relations work. Chairman Mallia requested Ms. Murray contact Peggy Hamilton of the Greater Rochester Foundation regarding trails funding/possible match for connector work in Orion. Secretary Slown asked about ownership and maintenance of the proposed connector routes. Marleau described the Paint Creek Trail Commission's approach in which each municipality owns and maintains its own 'piece'. Murray added that the West Bloomfield area has a multiply-owned trail and she will inquire about their strategy.

Dwasuk told Council that the Village of Lake Orion is participating as non-voting members in the Paint Creek Trail Commission now that that trail enters the Village but the Village does not contribute financially to operation and maintenance. Dwasuk also suggested that PATMC investigate the county's 'Count Your Steps' program and possibly participate since so many elementary schools are adjacent to the Polly Ann Trail. PATMC members agreed and discussed a culminating event to take place on National Trails Day, with Mike Bishop's annual event too.

Discussion returned to the 3 proposed trail links in Orion Twp. and the responsibilities of applicants / agencies.

Clancy requested again getting a visual representation of the Oxford bridge design to show to the bridge committee, the Village Council, and to address their concerns about aesthetics, safety, functionality, and village benefits. She recalled that the original motive for selecting a bridge as a solution to crossing M-24 was primarily safety, both for trail users and for pedestrians and vehicles within the village. Slown and Clancy discussed the current bridge debate. Marleau suggested some type of 'charette' to allow residents to speak and be heard and responded to. Clancy asked again to know dates for all review and open meetings to allow PATMC members to attend and speak for the Council's intent and plans, that the bridge needs to be viewed as a Council project, not a 'personal' project.

Mr. Mallia talked about Leonard going without a trail surface and discussed the origins of the whole trail starting in Leonard and that the trail owes much to Larry Obrecht, Pauline Blanka, and Rex Halfpenny and that their vision needs to be executed. Mallia indicated that direct communications and change of scope requests regarding the TEA-21

development grant - originated by PATMC – are properly the charge only of PATMC, not any other political bodies or individuals.

Member Roesner spoke about the role of committee and council members to honor predecessor's decisions and commitments to other communities, not to remove them or revise them. Clancy reiterated the value of the bridge and that safety is the number one issue, all other issues are side issues and can be handled case by case. Slown reaffirms that he supports the bridge and that new people involved are learning the proper way to exert their influence on the process but that he cannot 'vote' to override the process itself. Dwasuk commented that the relatively few, but loud, negative voices could be countered by public relations to bring out broad support. Slown listed Oxford Village Planning Commission members.

At 10:30 Larry Obrecht arrived and joined the discussion. Planning Commission is the venue for public speaking and questions and we should fill the room with trail supporters. with the goal of unanimous support from Duvall, Ziegaballer, Bossardet, Roller, Young, and Donovan. He supports speaking to members individually as well. Obrecht pointed out that if the Village prevents development now, ultimately the DNR will develop this trail and DNR will not allow as much village input as is being provided now. Obrecht informed Council that the DNR is pulling a 5yr old matching grant with 59K left, and that he will write them requesting an extension.

MDOT is reviewing the bridge package and when Obrecht hears from them / their revisions, he will bring them to the Village Planning Commission. Obrecht will also respond at that time to the items detailed by Elsarelli and other commentaries at the Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> PATMC meeting. Obrecht said Kennedy topo's should be on file in the Village and that he does not anticipate meeting the January 26<sup>th</sup> deadline to be put on the next PC agenda. He suggested that individuals purporting to represent 'public' opposition put these in writing to verify the public view so that we can react according to a process.

Mallia asked about the hypothetical situation in which the bridge issue prevented implementing the development grant: how much money would there be left to work on the trail? Obrecht stated that the DaimlerChrysler and Greenways Initiative money would have to be returned, as well as good faith corporate donations. The next step would be to dissolve the Council and turn responsibilities over to MDNR. Clancy commented that PATMC needs to be the lead voice, not to hope that others will take on leadership role. Suggested that PATMC needs to decide as a council on a strategy and to actively pursue this strategy, to correct flawed arguments and prevent incorrect information from becoming accepted as truth.

A press conference was decided upon, and county and regional stakeholders to be represented in addition to PATMC. Format will be based on a fact sheet with council opening a meeting, presenting the information, responding to issues, and inviting questions from press. Motion by Koski, supported by Dwasuk, to set an informational meeting to which we will invite the press and stakeholders. Passed unanimously. Location to be Orion Twp. Hall.

Marleau brings up bill due to Tetra Tech for additional engineering work. Slown moves we pay \$500 for work already completed, Mallia supports. **Motion approved unanimously on a Roll Call Vote.**

Point made that a tunnel was investigated and determined to be more expensive, not as safe, deviating from the trail, and that MDOT and MDNR objected.

**Old Business:**

Koski moved, Marleau seconded to table remaining agenda items until the next scheduled meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

**A. Five Year Plan Adoption**

**B. Bylaws amendments**

**Council Member's Remarks:**

None

**Adjourn:** Move to adjourn by Slown, supported by Dwasuk, supported unanimously. Adjournment at 12:02 p.m.

**Next Meeting February 20, 2004 at Rowland Hall, Leonard.**