

ERIE TO PITTSBURGH TRAIL ALLIANCE (EPTA)
Minutes of October 24, 2012 Meeting in Erie, PA
Held at Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, 1501 West Sixth Street, Erie, PA 16505

Participants

Organization

Trail Organization and At-Large Members:

Tom Baxter	Friends of the Riverfront (delegate)
Barney Scholl	Mercer County Trails Association (alternate)
Mike and Ann Kotyk	Mercer County Trails Association (alternates)
Jim Holden	Allegheny Valley Trails Association (delegate)
Marilyn Black	Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism (delegate)
Leah Carter	Titusville Area Trails Association (delegate)
Mike Steimer	Armstrong Rails to Trails Association (alternate)
Julia Eagles	Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (delegate)
Roy Weil	At-Large (delegate)

Advisor:

Hannah Hardy	Pa. Environmental Council
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Guests:

Kimberly Beers	Erie County Department of Health; Bike Erie
Debra Frawley	Greenways Coordinator, Council on Greenways and Trails

Welcome and Agenda: Julia Eagles presided and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. An agenda sheet for today's meeting was distributed in advance. Today's meeting was conducted in the recently constructed LEAF Education Center. Mrs. Eagles pointed out some of the environmentally friendly features, and described the numerous donors who assisted in addition to the construction grant.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 22, 2012 meeting were provided in advance. It was moved by Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Weil, and motion carried to approve the minutes as prepared.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Baxter provided his report as of October 4, when the account balance was \$1,080.60. All dues for 2012 have been received. On October 3, the "Day of Giving" throughout Pittsburgh, the EPTA Portrait on the Pittsburgh Foundation website received a total of \$275 donated by 4 families; the list of new donors was distributed today. Mr. Baxter will send the individual thank you letters (using draft furnished by Julia Eagles), and Mr. Weil will also do a personalized contact with each of the four donors. It was moved by Mrs. Black, seconded by Mrs. Carter, and motion carried to approve the Treasurer's Report as prepared.

Bike Erie: Kimberly Beers (employed by the Erie County Department of Health) is providing admin support for the new informal coalition called "Bike Erie" (www.bikeerie.org). The mission of Bike Erie is to assist in creating healthy, livable communities by promoting all forms of cycling and advocating for the rights and equality of the bicycling community. In 2012, they conducted first "The Ride of Silence", honoring cyclists injured and killed by motor vehicles. The ride, escorted by 5 City of Erie police officers on bicycles, took cyclists throughout the downtown area of Erie for a 1-hour ride. Today's attendees commended this new alliance.

EPTA Logo/Sign Committee: Logo contractor Fine Line Design, utilizing recent feedback from this committee, provided 4 versions which were viewed by today's attendees. All agreed on the simpler sailboat,

and on including the name as an integral part of the overall design. After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Holden, seconded by Mrs. Carter, and motion carried to select the main concept as in design #24, but with stronger font and a different bridge, with the ETPA Logo Committee in conjunction with the Executive Committee to adopt a final design once those tweaks are revised by the artist.

Implementation of New Signage: Mrs. Black announced that the Oil Region Alliance has obtained funding to produce and install the new EPTA signage/logo in 2013 on the existing segments and trailheads of the system in Crawford County; this is being co-funded by the County of Crawford and National Park Service. The decisions on dimensions, etc. and information of actual production costs for the signs and any needed posts will provide good guidance for subsequent implementation along all segments of the EPTA. After discussion, it was suggested that gradually the various member trails have their materials use language like “Queen City Segment of the Erie-to-Pittsburgh Trail.”

Trail Progress Reports: Armstrong Trail – Mr. Steimer indicated that volunteer crews are building through the Borough of Mannerville; a Request For Proposals for engineering for the East Brady Tunnel will soon be distributed; and his organization would like to host a summer 2013 EPTA Board meeting near East Brady.

Allegheny Valley Trails Association – AVTA is advocating for the Emlenton-Foxburg segment; the Borough of Foxburg has agreed to use CDBG funds to extend a street through the Shoup property to reach tip of trail; also, it’s very important to connect towns to each trail segment, such as new link through Riverfront Park in Franklin. Clear Lake Authority – Ms. Frawley reported that Spartansburg Borough received a \$25,000 Northwest Greenways Block Grant to conduct Spartansburg-Corry Feasibility Study; of the 3 engineering proposals received, selected Mackin Engineering as contractor including title search on the 6 to 8 miles involved. Chautauqua Rails-to-Trails Association – No report today. Erie-Western Pa. Port Authority – No report today. Friends of the Riverfront – Mr. Baxter indicated negotiations are in process for access on adjoining EPT alignment in the Aetna vicinity. LEAF – No change on trails in Frontier Park; Julia asked all to welcome Patricia, who will be the new LEAF Director in November, 2012. Northwest PA Trails Association – No report today. Oil Region Alliance – Mrs. Black invited all to the October 25 Groundbreaking Ceremony in Oil City for the Southern Segment of the McClintock Trail, which will be attended by DCNR Secretary Richard Allan. Mercer County Trails Association – Mr. and Mrs. Kotyk as well as Mr. Scholl reported that the Association has approximately 100 members now; they conduct running events as fund-raisers, as well as bike tours; June 15, 2013 is the next Mercer County Bike Tour Day; the Pedal-Paddlefest centered in Greenville’s park in 2012 was a well-attended two-day event in conjunction with the Shenango Valley Riverwatchers. A key easement has been executed with MinuteMart in Jamestown, PA recently for the Jamestown-Ohio Trail. Phase I of the Trout Island Trail is completed; officials in Sharpsville and Sharon are showing interest in extending the Trout Island Trail as economic development projects. Redbank Valley Trails Association – No report today. Titusville Area Trails Association – Mrs. Carter said that engineers and Kim Harris are negotiating easement agreements with property owners for the Queen City Trail extension; on October 26, the kick-off meeting for the Titusville Trail Town study will be held by Mackin Engineering, with Debbie Frawley as project manager, and Kathy McCollum as a subcontractor. Roy Weil – New brochures about the “Trail Volunteer Fund” at the Pittsburgh Foundation were provided today; he encourages applications for projects involving volunteers. Council on Greenways and Trails – Debbie Frawley indicated that her office has moved into the ORA office in Oil City; discussions are underway to expand her service territory to add Clarion County (currently Crawford and Venango County, plus Foxburg Boro); and the City of Oil City is starting to consider seeking “Trail Town” designation and preparations to better welcome EPTA travelers.

Western Pa. Trail Workshop: Mrs. Hardy announced the Pa. Recreation and Parks Society contracted with the Western Pa. office of PEC to administer the next workshops, which has been postponed and will likely occur in early March, 2013 at Cranberry Township in Butler County. This symposium will probably emphasize megatrails and will be a working one-day gathering.

Northwestern Pa. Greenways E-Magazine: Mrs. Black announced that a Northwest Greenways Block Grant of \$7,000 has been received by the County of Venango, to administer an 8-county electronic magazine about

greenways and trails. EPTA had pledged \$500 as match; that check has been issued to the County. CGT and ORA also pledged match, and those checks are in process. A Request For Proposals will be issued in November seeking editorial services by an individual or organization; interested parties should notify Mrs. Black so that they receive complete RFP sets promptly.

2013 Pa. Greenways and Trails Summit: PRPS has officially selected CGT and ORA's joint proposal to conduct the 2013 statewide summit in Franklin, PA. The dates will be September 15, 16, and 17. Serving on the Planning Committee are Jim Holden, Julia Eagles, Debbie Frawley, Marilyn Black, Ronnie Beith, Karen Burke, and Emily Gates; several more people will be added to balance geographical coverage for this summit which is hoped to be attractive to residents of Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania. Suggestions for mobile workshops, keynote speakers, and educational sessions should be directed to any of the committee members. The summit theme will be set at the November 17 committee meeting.

Members-at-Large: Mrs. Carter recently confirmed that Brenda Sandberg (bsandberg@erie.pa.us) desires to continue as an At-Large Member of the EPTA Board. Mrs. Eagles has contacted Morris Waid but has yet to hear back from him. Mrs. Black moved, Mr. Holden seconded, and motion carried to name Julia Eagles as a new At-Large Member of the EPTA Board, effective November 10.

Next Meeting: The next meeting date and location will be set once details for the Western Pa. Trail Workshop are determined; anticipate early March 2013.

Adjournment: It was moved by Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Weil, and motion carried to adjourn today's meeting; 1:02 p.m. Some participants then rode bikes to Presque Isle State Park bike trail.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Black (Secretary, EPTA)
Minutes prepared 10/29/2012

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N Drive/Erie to Pittsburgh Trail/EPTA minutes from 10-24-12 Erie meeting