

Land Conservation Ad-Hoc Ash Creek Community Forest Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 12th, 2019

The Ad-Hoc meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by Chairman Steve Williamson. Those present were Steve Williamson, Melissa Luck, Chad Cosgrove, Ken Anderson, Todd Kenefick, DNR and Tammy Cannoy-Bender.

Motion made by Chad Cosgrove to approve the agenda & proof of publication; second made by Melissa Luck
Motion carried.

Melissa Luck made motion to approve the minutes of the March 7th meeting second made by Chad Cosgrove. Motion carried.

#4 Grant application; Not enough time to write a strong grant application currently. The signs and trail markers will be paid for out of the Ash Creek Fund and the grant application will be written for the 2020 season. This is a state grant that happens every year. Ideas for the 2020 application are water bars on the trails to help with erosion from Horses using the trails. A nice kiosk area, picnic area, parking lot lighting. The upper parking lot improvement off Hillview Drive. Further discussion of what is needed to be part of the grant application. Think about reshaping some of the trails. Mowing new trails compacting trails. Lighting in the parking lot, restrooms, shelters, drinking water, lighting, these are all things that would qualify as a trail head. Juli VanCleve has been working on the trail map. the trails will be color coded. The trail signs can be purchased through any catalog. The current trails need to be cleaned up. Juli was on the southern ridge and the trail dead ends, so we need to get that trail connected again (this is a good improvement for the grant). Juli will be at the next meeting to go over the maps of the trails with the committee. We should have the map of the trails out by June 1st. (Sign was a 3x5 that Steve got a quote for) we could put the sign up now with 2 post and then next year build a nice kiosk, Melissa suggested a station with bags for pet waste cleanup. Once there is a map of the trails Melissa will put together a brochure to be placed at the depot visitor center and in some of the air B&B's in the area. Need to have a statement that all trails are moderate to difficult. The rules need to be finalized for the sign at the 3 different entrances, the hours for the park are 1 hour before sunrise and 1 hour after sunset. This will be an ordinance change, this will have to go to full board for approval. A map of the trails will be on the 3'x5' sign, a 1'x18" for the rules. The 1x18 will be at the three entrances for now, eventually there will be a sign with a map and a donation box at all entrances. Melissa asked about the fire numbers for each entrance; Ken will go to the zoning office to pick them up and get them installed.

#5 2015-19 goals of The County recreation plan; The parks commission is in the process of writing an updated plan. There is a portion of this plan that does include the Ash Creek Community Forest. Steve Williamson asked if there is a way to purchase property with the grant and the answer is yes. Long term goals one of which is for 2019 for an ADA compliant pit toilet. Also, an evasive species management plan needs to stay on the recreation plan, Steve suggested foot brushes at every entrance for people to use when entering and leaving the area. Steve suggested some sound forestry plans to be included in the plan or strong monarchy butterfly habitat and bee pollinator habitat, this is also something that could be part of the grant we apply for next year. Steve mentioned his goal is to have a bike trail from the city of Richland Center to the Ash Creek Community Forest. Things that could be donated are picnic tables possible shelters. It was also suggested to have bluebird and bat houses. Todd suggested that there are crossings that need to be updated after the flooding that has happened over the last couple of years. Bridge that needs to be part of the trail system.

Todd mentioned that the next walnut sale would be 10 to 12 years from now.

Next meeting date will be scheduled at the main LCC meeting on May 13th, 2019 if needed

Motion made by Chad Cosgrove to adjourn, second made by Melissa Luck. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Williamson tcb

Steve Williamson
Land Conservation Chair

SW/tcb