

Town of Vernon

Hockanum River Linear Park Committee Minutes – Special Meeting August 14, 2015

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Present: Members: Ann Letendre, Ginny Gingras, Joe King, George Arthur
Staff: Bruce Dinnie, Director P&R; Dave Smith, Town Engineer

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Ann Letendre, following the Friends HRLP meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Deferred to next meeting.

- A. Status Update of Vernon Greenways Volunteers Mural Project** – Don Bellingham reported that the mural is 2500 square feet, worked in collaboration with Vernon Arts Center and Youth Services. He received a \$5000 grant from P&W for the work. The project is moving along, although slower than scheduled. Lead artist is Jeff Slobodian. The work involves intensive preparation work, cleaning the surface, priming the surface, painting, then several layers of protective finish. Don is hoping to schedule a dedication September 19th.
- B. Status update of Friends Bridge and Boardwalk grant** – Ann reported that she and Dave Smith met with Mayor Champagne and Director of Administration John Ward on August 3rd to discuss the grant project. The Mayor agreed with the concept of the suspension bridge and gave an OK for Dave Smith to provide some time on the project. Ann received a letter of support from John Ward the following day.
- C. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas –(see Arthur report attached)**
- a. Trails are in good shape, except trail at Hock Mansions is eroding in several places and black sheathing is exposed.
 - b. George expressed concern that the 1000 feet of trail at Vernon Gardens is verbal only, and that we never did put anything in writing. We need to follow up on this with Vernon Gardens.
 - c. Comment was also made by Don that the Rails to Trails from Phoenix St to Bolton line is in bad shape, the worst they have been in 20 years. Only band-aid repairs have been made, and safety is a concern. The entire area needs to be scraped and resurfaced with heavy equipment. Although Public Works has promised they will do the work, it's been delayed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am, motion by Ginny, second by Joe King.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairperson

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Arthur Report

May 22, 2015 to August 14, 2015

1. I worked 36 more hours and completed the Mansion to Pleasantview trail segment except for a 220 foot boardwalk, two bridge structures and the parking area at Pleasantview Road.

This trail segment is about 1,440 feet long from the river bridge at the Mansions to Pleasantview Rd. The trail path along the river is now 6 to 8 ft wide and is a dry walk. There is one stream crossing about 660 feet south of the mansion bridge that can normally be crossed with hiking boots, but should have a simple 16 foot wooden bridge for higher water conditions. The bridge will cross the stream about 36 feet east of the river.

The 220 foot boardwalk will be needed to cross a swampy area with a mud bottom. I believe it will require pilings to be driven thru the mud to support the structure. It will commence about 130 feet north of the edge of Pleasantview Road.

2. All Vernon trails are in excellent condition including the Hockanum River Trail. The Vernon Greenway Volunteers helped move a 1994 bridge at Dart Hill South Park.

The stream banks had eroded badly and earlier attempts to shore up the bridge were no longer adequate. We were able to pick up the bridge and move it slightly downstream, place it on new support timbers and secure it's position to channel irons driven into the stream banks. It was a 5hour work party.

I worked 34 additional hours on the HRLP trails. The HRLP stone dust trails are now in good shape south to Hockanum Blvd. Major work was required on the segment from DHS Park to Hockanum Blvd



The stone dust path was so covered with weeds that it was only 4 feet wide (instead of original 8 feet). I string trimmed it so that the whole path is now 12 to 16 feet wide.

The Mansion stone dust trail is in bad shape – in addition to narrowing, the fabric often shows through.

Similar work was required on the orange blazed trails. They needed to be widened with lopper and string trimmer so that they were 6 to 8 feet wide again. Similar work was done on the blue/orange trail behind Vernon Gardens, the stone dust path from Paul's Pizza plaza and the lookout benches at WPCA.