



## City of Rock Falls Hennepin Canal – Trails Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 9-12-2017

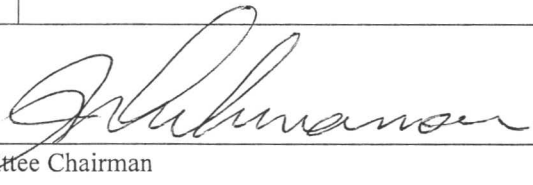
Time Meeting Started: 12:00pm

Time Meeting Ended: 1:09

Members		Also Attended	
Alderman Schuneman – Chairman	p	Mayor Wescott	
Alderman Kleckler	p	Administrator Blackert	p
RRDA Rep – Eric Arduini	p	Alderman Kuhlemier	p
Brian Tribley	p	Inspector Searing	
John Larson	p	Mike Sterba	P

Topic	Discussion	Plan of Action
1. Call to Order @ 12:00 p.m. – Chairman Schuneman	Meeting was called to order.	Meeting begins at 12:00pm
2. Audience Request	None	No Action
3. Approve Minutes – a. Hennepin Canal Committee July 13th, 2017 minutes.	The minutes were reviewed by the committee.	Minutes approved
4. Old Business a. Flail Mower Discussion	Larry Spinka reported that he found a mower that will work with the City's tractor. It can handle up to a 4" tree. The mower is mounted on a hydraulic arm. It is a 6 foot mower on a 10 foot boom. It could be used along the trails, but also for ditches in the Industrial Park. Alderman Kuhlemier stated that the ditch along Industrial Park Road has always been difficult for the City.	Mr. Spinka will share the quote with Administrator Blackert and find out if there are funds for the purchase.
5. New Business a. Storybook Trail Discussion	Mary Nelson reported that she had to remove the current book due to vandalism along the trail. Brian Tribley has removed the Plexiglas from all of the poles. Mrs. Nelson shared pictures of the setup in Mt. Carroll, and they have theirs in a more urban area near the ballfield to deter vandalism. The damage to ours seems to have happened over one weekend. The committee discussed and decided that until the prairie area has a better way to be monitored, the storybook trail may be moved to Kiwanis Park next to the Fire Station. A parents as teachers group will be visiting the storybook trail on September 22 <sup>nd</sup> , and Mrs. Nelson will put the book pages up for that day with staples. The Firehouse of God will remove the poles and store them at the Street Department for the winter. Mrs. Nelson will visit Kiwanis Park and make a plan for setting them up next spring. The committee will issue a press release when the new storybook trail is ready. They will study the size of the plywood and Plexiglas for next year. John Larson suggested putting up a sign at the former area explaining the reason it had to be removed.	Mrs. Nelson will visit Kiwanis Park and make a plan for setting them up next spring. The Firehouse of God will remove the poles and store them at the Street Department for the winter.
c. New Proposed Trails	Alderman Schuneman reported that in his discussions with Jack Spencer, the opportunity for a couple of new trails were considered. The Optimist Club of Rock Falls would like to have an "Elwood Trail" that could highlight, and inform people about Doug Hand's famous Elwood. This trail may begin at the riverfront down Avenue A, then along the former railroad to Linville Crossing.  A "Bridge the Community Trail" could be a loop that goes across the first Avenue Bridge and the walk bridge connecting Rock Falls and Sterling. With having two communities involved it may open the door for grants to help with signage.  Alderman Schuneman would like the trails to begin at the RB&W District with a kiosk that tells about each trail, their distance, and a map.	No action

	Alderman Kleckler stated that any new developments need to determine future costs and maintenance. Their also needs to be revenue sources identified for the maintenance of the trails. Alderman Kleckler thought that the sidewalks along 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street are not in good enough shape for a designated trail, as people are often running in the road. John Larson agrees that the trails should all be tied together with matching benches and trash receptacles for cohesiveness.	
6. RRDA Report	Eric Arduini informed the committee that the RRDA will be having a yearend meeting and installation of new officers. The RRDA did not participate in the Rock River Sweep, instead the RRDA's river cleanup was held earlier in the year.	No action
7. Volunteerism Report	No report	No Action
8. Committee Member Items	Bill Milby reported that the Hennepin Canal markers have been installed every ¼ mile to Route 172. They have been used when one person was injured around marker 2.5. Personnel were able to be dispatched directly to the location to help the person. Mike Sterba reported that the new bridge has been installed at Centennial Park, and one sidewalk has been installed	No action
9. Adjournment	With nothing else for the good of the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:09pm	Meeting ends at 1:09pm




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Committee Chairman