

## Kentucky Rails to Trails Council Meeting

Minutes for 7/20/04

6:30 PM – Tuesday 5th floor Conference Room CHANGE OF ROOM

Lexington Fayette Co. Urban Co. Government Building

Main & Martin Luther King Blvd., Lexington KY

Next Meeting is 8/17/04

Present: Dixie Moore, Tim Powell, Keith Lovan, George Ely Luzia Foster, Lisa Brownell, Joe Bramer, Phyllis Hasbrouck, Jennifer Truax, Cheryl Wyatt, Jeanette Coufal, Doris Churchill (concernedusvoter@yahoo.com).

### Consensus Agenda Items and Background Information:

1. Keith Lovan, Chair, polled the board via email to see if they wanted KRTC to support KHC in supporting "funding the Recreation Trails Program" and inserting equestrian use as one of the "allowable activities". All who responded supported the resolutions and Keith has written the letters to the KY US Representatives and Senators. .

Specifically he asked if the board could support:

1) "We support funding for the Recreation Trails Program of \$503 million over six years, the level in the House-passed bill".

2) "We support the provision in the Senate-passed bill that specifically recognizes that horseback riding is an allowable activity on shared-use paths".

Background: Both the House of Representatives and the Senate has passed federal highway funding legislation, called the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act or SAFETEA. Because there are major differences in the two versions, a Conference Committee, made up of Members of the House and Senate, has been formed to reconcile the differences and bring one bill back to the House and Senate for passage. The Conference Committee has begun meeting and will continue to meet after the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess

2. 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Kentucky Rails to Trails Council's participation in Lexington's Red, White, and Boom Festival on July Third was a great success. Our presence was seen and 'heard' by all who attended the parade. Who could miss the bells and whistles of our 'Truckomotive' that led the way. Signs reflecting KRTC, BRTF (Bluegrass RT) and DBRT (Daniel Boone, Morehead) were displayed. An unbiased observer commented that the "engine horn was loud but effective."

A special thank you to Jodie Wells, the owner/engineer, and her copilots James Smith and James Bersot. Kris and Eddie Farrey did a super great job in putting our float together. The crowd especially enjoyed seeing the Penny Farthing wheeling along the parade route provided by Pedal the Planet Bicycles.

Despite the heat and humidity we had 32 participants who gathered and enjoyed the wait for the parade to begin and then marched or rode behind the truck-o-motive. . We had a roller blader, a runner, a hiker, a recumbent, two tandems, a variety of other bikes, and a family with small kids in a

stroller, a wheeled bicycle with a roof! and a wheelchair. Thank you to the following who came in and with a variety of hiking, running, biking, and balding gear to complete our parade entry: Keith Lovan, Dixie Moore, Eddie & Kris Farrey, Matthew Schuler, Terry Foody, Christopher Rowe, Gwenda Bond, Andrew Plant, Mark & Wendy Tremble, Lauren Foster, Bill Daniels, Lisa Brownell, Tim-Lisa-Zach-Quincy & Teresa Powell, Dennis-Chrisi & Christopher Karounos, Pam Mueller, Jeff & Wanda McGuffey, Doug Green, Sammy & Lisa Carter, and Elizabeth Broaddus.

The booth did its usual booming business during most of the day. Cheryl Wyatt, Rebecca McNall, Joni Kling, Shanda Cecil, Phyllis Jenness, George Ely, Andy and Katie Batje, Keith Lovan and Joan Mayer. The donation jar had \$37.35 in it. The box which reflects sales had \$30 in it after I took out the \$20 that I had added as a starter for change.

The worth of the booth is not reflected in what we sold but rather in our presence and the people we talked to.

Ashland Cycling participated in the Ashland 4th of July parade this year spreading awareness for RT.

3. Keith Lovan, Chair, polled the board by email to see if they supported paying the filing fee of \$300 to extend the dealing for the railbanking of the Tyrone Bridge and Rail Company project that is due on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The board approved the increase in the amount. Originally the board had voted at the last meeting to approve the filing fee however at that time the amount given was \$150. It was actually \$300.

4. Keith Lovan emailed with Terri Burch of the KY Horse Council discussing KRTC possible participation in the OVETS program in 2005.

5. Sandy Shafer, Bill Gorton, Lisa Brownell and Keith Lovan met with the Joint Legislative Committee Mtg on Economic Development and Tourism on 7/15/04 in Frankfort. Sandy was contacted as the Government liaison by the Legislative Research Council to appear before the Interim Joint Committee on Economic and Development committee to discuss rail trials and to identify what are the obstacles for RT in KY. The Chairs of the committee are Senator Katie Stine and Representative Eddie Ballard who were present. Bill Fortune, a KRTC member, also attended.

6. Representatives of TBRC (Keith Lovan, Jodie Wells, and Jeanette Coufal) met with US Rep. Ben Chandler's aides. And Becky Barnes, counsel to Joe Barrows. (Becky Barnes was one). They said they didn't have much influence with Fletcher but agreed that our next step is to get ownership of the bridge. They hope to meet with both candidates for the state senate seat for Anderson/Woodford counties, one of which is Gov. Fletcher's brother.

7. Cindy Deitz, Lisa Brownell, and Keith Lovan met with Valerie Trimble and Dave Shuffett of KET to discuss producing a program about Rails to Trails in Kentucky. We are very excited about this type of exposure. Both Valerie and Dave are very interested in Rails to Trails and want to help us get the word out. Dave even discussed the possibility

of a potential project in Green County his home county. There is an abandonment that took place years ago which Dave use to hike on as a kid and thinks that it would be a wonderful rail trail. Dave is going to talk to some of his friends back home and see if he can stir up some interest.

The show Kentucky Living will be taped sometime this year and will run next year between January and June. Valerie said that if any one wanted to publicize their trail that they should contact her at vtrimble@ket.org.

8. Brighton East RT Progress: The city is getting ready to go to bid. A contract has been let to move the fences and utilities. Once that is complete construction will start.

9. Bob Strosnider has asked for a letter authorizing him to acquire easements in KRTC's name and to spend up to \$500 for the easements. He would like easements to be donated; however some people will want some nominal payment. He reports that Winchester expressed some interest in KRTC acquiring their easements. The idea of course is for KRTC to acquire easements, and then donate them to the developing agency. They would then be used as part of the match for planning and development grants. He can not move forward in Carter County until he has this authorization in writing.

10 KRTC Strategic Planning Committee, July 19, 2004; submitted by C.Wyatt  
Present: Kristin & Eddie Farrey, Cindy Deitz, Joe Bramer, Cheryl Wyatt  
Reviewed the KRTC Action Plan from Fall, 2003

Discussed the need to encourage membership to take part in committee work by surveying them on how they would prefer or like to help. Possibly from an email survey on the listserve.

Discussion on the need to prioritize the Action Plan goals in order to proceed with establishing committees. Committees comprised of board members as well as interested individuals. Discussion on the problem of how to connect with and include those not in the central KY area in committee work.

Executive director position: Not possible to fund with current income/budget. Discussion on need for corporate sponsor like a bank or health insurance organization. Discussed listing the job description and skills needed for an executive director on the listserve in case there was a qualified applicant.

How to proceed: check with national RTC for assistance on public relations, organization, and membership.

#### Minutes of the Meeting:

1. Approved Treasurers Report. Joe Bramer reported Savings \$110.37, Checking \$1461.59, Money Market 20,103.37 for a total of \$21,665.33. Income in the past month 71.30.

#### Old Business:

1. Keith Lovan reported on the Joint Legislative Committee Mtg on Economic

Development and Tourism on 7/15/04 in Frankfort. Other persons present in addition to those listed in the Background Item were Stan Lee from Lexington, Joe Ward, Lee Creech, Jonathan Gray, CSX also had two people in attendance to discuss the LBS. Dixie Moore to email Cecilia Perry of the LRC and ask for a list of attendees. Meeting went 2 to 2 ½ hours. KRTC asked for full time coordination for RT, a state agency specified to support RT, support for a pilot project, more te funding. Suggestion was made to send follow up letters to members on the committee and a Kirtley video to Sen. Stine and Palumbo. Keith Lovan to draft letter to send.

2. Lisa Brownell reported she plans to interview Judge Kirtley for her dissertation and that her information either in written or video form will be available to KRTC. She also agreed to get a master copy of the Kirtley presentation to KRTC.
  
4. Cindy Deitz, Lisa Brownell, and Keith Lovan met with Valerie Trimble and Dave Shuffett of KET to discuss producing a program about Rails to Trails in Kentucky. Cathy Crockett was suggested as an example of a trail in progress, Wingo trail also suggested. A letter to Dave Shuffett thanking him for his interest was proposed, Keith Lovan to follow up on that suggestion.
  
5. Discussion held on how to proceed with KRTC speciality license plates. It was reported that an individual, Allison Smith, wants to do a specialty plate for “Share the Road”. She has enlisted a Representative, Charlie Borders ,to sponsor the necessary bill. She plans to use money that is raised to fund bike related programs through the transportation cabinet. Keith has talked with Allison that KRTC is also planning a plate. Suggestions were made to show Allison KRTC’s plate and to put Allison on the KRTC mailing list so she could become familiar with KRTC and our goals to have more RT. The consensus of the group was for the Farreys to continue on with their efforts toward getting a plate designed for KRTC and start the process to start collecting names.
  
6. Keith reported meeting with the designer of the last KRTC brochure, the state map will be updated, the current membership fees included and new pictures of KY used. Suggestion was made to make the KRTC brochure more cost effective (paper stock less glossy and thick, easier mailing, handling.)
  
7. Cindy Deitz is working on updating the display board. She is looking through the inventory of Lisa Brownell’s RT pictures to make copies. The meeting moved seconded and passed a motion authorized her to spend up to \$100 to duplicate the slides.
  
8. Discussion held on Bob Strosnider request to be a “consultant” to KRTC and his request to spend up to \$500 to fund acquisition in Carter County. George Ely moved that Bob Strosnider be KRTC consultant and/or representative in Carter County to acquire easements for the Lexington Big Sandy. It was seconded and passed. After some discussion it was also moved, seconded and passed to approve expenses up to \$500 to acquire easements. It was unsure if this was to be used for token payments or filing or lawyer’s fees. A condition was that Bob keep a record of money spent and informed KRTC in an ongoing and timely manner of his plan of action and monies spent. His experience will be used as a guideline for the future. Keith Lovan to write the letter stating that Bob Strosnider will act as KRTC representative in acquiring

easements in Carter County.

New Business:

9. A discussion was held on putting advertising in newsletter. Because the newsletter is a volunteer project done by one person (Dixie Moore) it was agreed that additional work in putting out the newsletter should not be expected at this time until there is a committee, an advertising manager or clerical help to support this. In the future, suggestions were that \$250 could be charged for a space in the newspaper, roughly ½ the cost of the newsletter.
10. Discussion was had on strategic planning led by Joe Bramer and Cheryl Wyatt, Discussed were advertising and fund raising. They plan to send out an email to the listserve asking for feedback and willingness to be involved. They reviewed the prior action plan and found it too broad for a current working document. They plan to ask each board member to come up with goal that they will work toward. They want to encourage committee work. The suggestion of trying to find a corporate sponsor perhaps to fund an executive director was raised. Banks and Health Care Facilities were cited as corporations to contact.
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11. The suggestion made by Joan Mayer, a volunteer at the July 4<sup>th</sup> festival KRTC booth, to have printed petitions that could be signed and sent to our legislature was considered a very good idea. Cheryl Wyatt as head of the PR committee is to look into sample pre printed post cards, sample post card and petition forms. Probably the first time that would be used would be at the Pioneer Days Festival in Winchester.
12. Idea was raised of putting out display in libraries and stores. Town Branch Non profit has done so. While it appeared to be a good idea the meeting wanted more specifics. Dixie Moore to ask Dave Elbon for Town Branch's experience.
13. The Board by consensus voted and accepted Jeanette Coufal to serve on the board and as Vice Chair of Finance, Sandy Shafer to continue on the Board and as Vice Chair for Governmental Affairs and Bill Gorton to serve as legal advisor. .
14. The abandonment in Eastern KY was discussed. A meeting in early August is proposed for the Judges of the three counties (Magoffin, Breathitt and Johnson) to meet and discuss how to turn the abandonment in to a RT. Brent Sweger from Transportation wants to attend. There is the possibility of the counties getting together and forming a Recreational Commission. The ADD's should also be involved. The ADDs are Big Sandy, (Johnson, Magoffin) and KY River (Breathitt). Lisa Brownell indicated that the Transportation Center could possibly supply transportation vehicles for KRTC to attend the meeting and/or look at the ROW. Possibly in the future to ask the Sierra Club to do an outing. Prior to looking at and walking the ROW permission needs to be obtained from the Owner, RJ Corman.
15. Keith Lovan raised the possibility of paying for professional services to update the

web services. Tim Powell, webmaster, to write up ideas for the next meeting as to how this might be done. He also proposed having benefits for membership, creating a benefit package. This was judged to be a good idea. Keith Lovan to pursue and perhaps set up a committee.

16. Lisa Brownell in the next few months will be leaving the state. She is willing to do a presentation on abandoned RT in KY at our next meeting that could be opened to the community. If she can't make the next regular meeting, August 17<sup>th</sup>, she could possibly do it on the 24<sup>th</sup>. To let Keith Lovan know of her availability if the meeting date needs to be changed.
17. Jeanette Coufal reported that an article favorable to RT that mentioned the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade entry of KRTC by Mira Cruze was in the Nougat, a new free magazine in Lexington. .
18. The Sierra Club will have an outing to the Little Miami Bike Trail, Loveland Ohio, on August 13-15. Open to Sierra Club Members and guests. Contact Lane Boldman 859-252-3422.