

Minutes of Olmsted County Stagecoach Trail Study Group

November 18, 2010

The Olmsted County Stagecoach Trail Study Group met at 7:00 PM Thursday November 18, 2010 at The Byron City Hall at 680 Byron Main Court NE Byron, MN 55920 507 775-3400

In attendance were: Dick Leonard – DCTA, Joel Wagar – MnDNR, Kevin Crilly – Olmsted County Parks, Ruth Yeager – Friends of Oxbow, John Dinusson & Dave Rossman – BPAC Members, and Michael Wojcik – Rochester City Council.

General Committee Business: We conducted introductions and discussed adding Glen Quam – new State Representative to the email list as well as Paul Daley – land owner. Dave R had contacted the Byron Newspaper and asked that the meetings be listed in the Community Bulletin Board. He also contacted the City and asked to have their website announcement for our meeting to show our correct meeting date. We updated the study schedule through February 2011. ROCOG staff has indicated that there is a position on the SMART group available to represent Olmsted County. Study group members are encouraged to consider this role. However, Dick L. thought it may be an alternate position.

Trail Planning: We continued our discussion of the Stagecoach Trail through Kalmar Township. Joel reported the Master Plan is being reviewed internally through the DNR offices. Diane Anderson is compiling comments and responding to them. They are looking for more historical information in Kalmar Township. Dave R suggested the old one-room school sites and Dick I suggested old “Ghost-Towns” We also suggested something for “Bear Grove” the original name for the City of Byron. There is still not much available on the original routes of the stagecoaches through Kalmar Townships. She is willing to come to our next meeting and present the updated Master Plan. This document will be then presented to the public at the February open house event. The date and the location of the open house are not set yet.

Joel will work on an updated Segment 1 drawing that could be used for the public displays at the City Hall and other business establishment in town. Prior to the February Open House event we should return to the Kalmar Township Board, Byron City Council and the Olmsted County Park Board and report on the progress to date. We need to start thinking about a preferred route.

Trails Planning Resources: Dave R presented copies of “Talking Points Checklist” and “Landowners Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)”, which were prepared for the Bluestem Trail Study Group. The committee looked at these and indicated a desire to use something similar for the Olmsted County Stagecoach Trail.

Rochester news: Michael W discussed the recently adopted Bicycle Lanes in Rochester and the need for bicycle advocates to come to public meetings to speak in favor of bicycle improvements. Contact Mike if you are interested. Additional bike lanes will be considered by the City annually as part of their “Complete Streets Policy” Mike also discussed the desire to connect Rochester to Byron and also to Oxbow Park. He thought a connection from Douglas would be too far north.

DCTA: They continue to advance the segment from Mantorville to the Olmsted County line and have signed an agreement with the Dodge County Engineer to proceed with survey of parcels and preliminary engineering on this segment.

Look to the Action items for your assignments. Continue to review the routes discussed in the field. The next meeting will be at the Byron City Hall on 12-16-2010 at 7:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Walk, ride or drive the alternate routes and take photos of interesting areas.
2. Look for and invite new members to our next meeting.
3. Volunteer to contact local businesses for display areas.
4. Volunteer to meet with Local agencies to discuss our progress.

Prepared by David Rossman
Chair of Olmsted County Stagecoach Trail Study Group