

MINUTES OF MEETING
ARANSAS PATHWAYS STEERING COMMITTEE
November 8, 2011
Next Meeting 9:00 AM, December 1, 2011

The regular scheduled meeting of the Aransas Pathways Steering Committee (APSC) was called to order by Chairman De McLallen at 9:00 AM at the Aransas County Service Center, 1931 FM2165, Rockport, TX. Notice of the meeting had been posted at the Aransas County Courthouse on November 3rd, 2011. In attendance were committee members De McLallen, Tom Callan, Pam Stranahan, Debra Corpora, Diane Probst, Tommy Moore, Earl Matthew, Brian Olsen, C.J. Wax and Charles Smith thus constituting a quorum.

1. The first order of business was to invite Citizens to be Heard to speak. There were no citizens wishing to speak.
 2. Minutes of the meeting of September October 17th were approved by unanimous vote of members present.
 3. Mr. Hugh Osborne representing the National Park Service was introduced to the Committee. Hugh will be providing assistance to the Project under the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RCTA) program of the National Park Service during the next year. Extension of NPS assistance for an additional year may be possible. Hugh had been accompanied by De McLallen, Deb Corpora, Earl Matthew and Pam Stranahan on tours of project sites and briefed on project objectives by De McLallen and Tom Callan on the previous day.
 4. Hugh related his experience with projects similar to Pathways in many locations during many years service with the Park Service. He will be able to assist in our efforts by providing information relating to project design, particularly trail design from his personal experience and information relating to specifications for birding infrastructure from associations with which he is familiar or has NPS contacts with information. He is also familiar with sources of funding which may be available to the Pathways Project. Hugh will be providing support from his Denver office and will attend our meetings from time to time.
3. Members of the technical committees made their reports and addressed questions of the Committee as follows:
- a. Birding: The Birding Committee continued to work with Ray Kirkwood in prioritizing their projects and refining cost estimates.
 - b. History: The APSC tour of historic sites was conducted on November 3rd. Separate minutes are available covering this tour. Thanks to ACISD and APSC member Jimmy Kendrick for the bus.
 - c. Trails: Randy Kemp / Ray Kirkwood / Heather Wade continued work on mapping biking and other trails using GIS mapping techniques linked to Google Earth. A preliminary set of maps

has been developed and are attached as a part of these minutes. A formal request for the services of Heather Wade and Texas Seagrant is needed. Action: De McLallen

Kayaking: 19 launch sites have been identified with some improvement required for 9.

- d. Signs: Nancy Paulson and JD Debler presented several designs for signs covering both site identification and directional indicators color coded by type of attraction. Cost estimates were also included. Additional work will be required to reach a final recommendation for this important cost items. Copies of these recommendations are attached as a part of this report.
 - e. Ray Kirkwood presented an analysis of projects ranked with respect to a number of factors including Tourism Impact, Technical Simplicity, Cost, Execution Time, Relationships to other Projects, Coordination Requirements and Outside Funding Availability. The ranking includes 35 projects which are likely to be completed within the first 24 months. This listing is to be refined by December 6th in the hope of presentation of it to Commissioner's Court for approval in December or early January.
 - f. Marketing: A meeting was held in October to present the Project to members of the lodging industry and to discuss ideas for publicity which would assist them in attracting tourists. The meeting was well received and work will continue by the Chamber to develop marketing plans. Providing information to visitors via electronic media such as smart phone apps, iPad or similar tablet computers loaded with project information to be loaned out by the Chamber and hotels was seen to have promise. Website maintenance will also contribute to the success of this effort. QR codes can also be attached to signs and literature which can be downloaded for viewing site information
4. Grant Committee: DeMcLallen and Tom Callan are discussing the possibility of nomination of one or more individuals to head the Grant Committee. Nomination of this individual should be accomplished in November.
5. Date for the next meeting was discussed and accepted by APSC as Tuesday, December 6th at 9:00 AM.
6. There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Tom Callan

Approved: De McLallen
