

S T A T E O F M I C H I G A N

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Blue Star Trail (FOTBST) are engaged in the construction of a Non-Motorized trail connecting existing trails from South Haven to Holland; and

WHEREAS, FOTBST is requesting the Board of Commissioners' acceptance of ownership of the future portion of the Non-Motorized Blue Star Trail to be constructed within Casco and Ganges Townships, as attached.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Board accepts ownership under the following conditions:

1. Any expenses relative to the construction, maintenance and operation of the trail shall be funded by FOTBST which may include other funding sources facilitated by the FOTBST i.e. grants, endowment, etc.,

2. The level of expenditures to be supported by the FOTBST shall be determined by the County consistent with the standards by which other County park related properties are maintained,

3. Prior to the construction of any portion of the trail within Casco and Ganges Townships the FOTBST shall secure the approval of the Board to proceed with construction by demonstrating the availability of funds and the existence of a design that is acceptable to the County,

4. (An) Agreement(s) subsequent to this resolution between the parties shall be drafted, which shall include, but not be limited to, specific language relative to the conditions listed within this resolution, said agreement(s) may alter such conditions and therefore supersede the stipulations considered herein and shall only be considered executed upon approval of the Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED notwithstanding any specific resolutions already rescinded by the Board of Commissioners, this resolution supersedes any prior resolutions to the extent that they may conflict with the provisions of this resolution.

Moved by Commissioner DeYoung, seconded by Commissioner Jessup to approve the resolution as amended. Motion carried by roll call vote. Yeas: 7 votes. Nays: 0 votes.

ATTEST, A TRUE COPY



Clerk-Register

APPROVED: January 11, 2018

cc: Admin. - Finance - Human Resources

Information from the Allegan County Parks Department Trail Research Report

St Clair County: "Yes we believe that it (trail) has brought visitors to our county"

City of Marquette: "Significantly popular, written up in national publications, races, destinations..."also acts as location for social gathering "...

Betsie Trail (Benzie County): "Seeing increase of users on trail each year"

Cascade Township: "The trails are an extremely popular aspect of our township. The millage is up for renewal in 2017, and we expect it to pass handily"

City of Portage: 200,000 + users annually. Locals, tourists and used for events. See usage on trails and feedback from local shops/restaurants saying "users were using trail and then came in"

Oakland County: "Trail connections/county's greenway plan with internal and external connections is top priority for county"

Laketown Township: "Seeing increase of users on trail each year"

Battle Creek: " linear park path is the most popular park in our system"

DNR: Trail use is booming. ...three of top 10 recreational activities involved use of trails...

DNR: A 2012 DNR survey of local recreation providers found that 75% of the respondents said that their service area needed additional trails. 72% responding that they would be expending local tax revenue on developing additional trails.