

Melissa Milton-Pung

From: Melissa Milton-Pung
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 4:41 PM
To: Melissa Milton-Pung; 'Nancy Snyder'; 'PENNINGTON JASPER REV'; 'Jean King'; 'Peter Kelly'; 'Paul Darling'; 'Elmer E. White'; 'Martha Churchill'; 'Alice Ralph'
Cc: Patricia Denig; Mechelle Hardy; Conan Smith; Kira Macyda
Subject: New info: NA Trails Marker Final Comments to Parks & Rec

Dear Commissioners,

I have learned that Parks & Rec's staff have reviewed the introduction paragraph to the Native American Trails marker, and have some concerns about using the Road Commission's text. They don't consider it appropriate to use other organizations' prepared text on signage that at their facilities. Consequently, it was their understanding that the HDC would be developing original text for the sign. The text changes recommended by the HDC at the April meeting were not substantively different enough for the needs of this project.

Additionally, Parks & Rec's staff feel that starting the paragraph with "the road network in WC" detracts from the real focus of the signs, which is Indian trails. Kira Macyda has created a paragraph that her supervisor believes is more appropriate for the sign, please see below for the proposed replacement language:

“Centuries ago, Indian trails traversed the landscape of Washtenaw County. These paths connected Indian villages to fertile hunting and fishing grounds throughout Michigan. When settlers arrived in the County during the 19th century, these same trails were used to link growing communities. Eventually, some of these trails became part of the current road system that is evident today. “

I apologize for this additional review and discussion on a project that we all want to see move forward quickly. Given that the HDC is rather particular about wording for historical markers, however, I feel that this proposed change must at either gain majority approval by the HDC via email, or be reviewed at our next meeting on May 14. Please take a look at this language, and let me know what you think about the proposed change as well as how you would like to proceed with this matter. I will look to Nancy Snyder for the final word on how to proceed.

Thanks very much,

Melissa

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