

RESOLUTION #3-2009

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DUNES-KANKAKEE TRAIL PLAN

WHEREAS non motorized transportation is an important element of the enjoyment and quality of life of residents of Porter County and Northwest Indiana as well as a popular recreational activity for visitors to enhance their experience; and

WHEREAS through the efforts of local, State and Federal agencies, the Dunes-Kankakee Trail corridor from Indiana Dunes State Park and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to the Kankakee River has been identified as a crucial north-south link in the overall non-motorized and green network in Porter County and the Northwest Indiana region; and

WHEREAS the Marquette Plan Lakeshore Reinvestment Strategy identifies the need for enhanced public access to the Lake Michigan Shoreline via extension of the green and non-motorized network into neighborhoods and communities along the South Shore of Lake Michigan and encourages the use of multimodal opportunities to guide visitors to the lakefront.

WHEREAS the "Hoosiers on the Move: The Indiana State Trails, Greenways and Bikeways Plan" with its goal of "a trail within 15 minutes of every Hoosier by 2016" identifies the Dunes-Kankakee Trail as a State/Backbone Trail within the overall State trail network; and

WHEREAS the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission's Ped and Pedal Plan identified the Dunes-Kankakee Corridor as a High Priority Regional Trail Corridor and important north-south connection within Porter County to the Tri-State Trail Corridor along the Lake Michigan Shoreline; and

WHEREAS multiple local, State, and National Park Service trail efforts have been undertaken as a connection to or portion of the proposed Dunes-Kankakee Trail corridor, which includes, American Discovery Trail, Burns Harbor Trail Network, Chesterton's Westchester Liberty Trail and Prairie-Duneland Trail, Coffee Creek Conservancy Trail, Indiana Dunes Gateway Trail, Marquette Greenway Trail, Portage's Prairie Duneland Trail and Iron Horse Trail, Porter's Orchard Pedestrian Way and Brickyard Trail, Porter County's Calumet Trail and Meridian Road Trail, and City of Valparaiso Pathway and Greenway System.

WHEREAS a team of representatives from various local, regional, State and Federal agencies and municipalities has been assembled to develop the Dunes-Kankakee Corridor Plan and implementation strategy; and

WHEREAS the team has developed the Dunes-Kankakee Trail Plan as a conceptual representation of the proposed trail corridor; and

WHEREAS the council has identified the provision of non motorized transportation facilities and greenways as a priority in the future planning of Porter County and the Northwest Indiana region in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors in the region.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Valparaiso Common Council hereby endorses the Dunes-Kankakee Trail Plan as a concept for further development, and supports the exploration of funding and other methods of implementation of the plan in order to make it a reality.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009 by the City of Valparaiso Common Council.

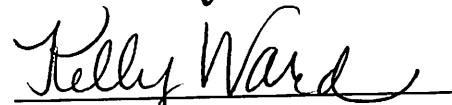
  
Al Eisenmenger, President

  
Joey Larr

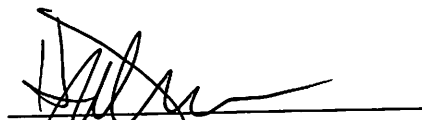
  
John Bowker

  
Art Elwood

  
Bob Taylor

  
Kelly Ward

  
Jan Dick

  
Jon Costas, Mayor