

RESOLUTION 2023-04/2184

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE “BERRIEN COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN”

At a regular meeting of the City Council of Niles, Berrien County, Michigan held at the Council Chambers, 1345 E. Main Street in Niles Michigan, on Monday, the 24th day of April 2023, at 6:00 p.m., there were:

Present: Georgia Boggs, Gretchen Bertschy, Amanda Dunnem, Timothy Rogers, William Weimer, John DiCostanzo, Michael Thompson

Absent: Charlie McAfee

The following resolution was offered by **Councilmember Bertschy** and supported by **Councilmember Dunnem**.

WHEREAS, the City of Niles is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for citizens throughout the region and recognizes that a network of trails in Berrien County will contribute greatly to quality of life by connecting people, communities and regional assets; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Berrien County Trails with its partners and steering committee has engaged Berrien County municipalities, the County and its residents in the development of a countywide master plan for trails; and

WHEREAS, the “Berrien County Trails Master Plan” presents a county-wide vision and recommends increasing cooperation and collaboration to create a network that will provide transportation, exercise, leisure, safety, accessibility, recreation and community benefits aimed at enhancing the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, many communities, agencies, and trail advocates in the region have taken a lead in planning and/or building local trails, and those efforts can be greatly enhanced by being connected to a larger regional network of trails; and

WHEREAS, trails will help improve the quality of the air we breathe by promoting reduced congestion through increasing safer non-motorized transportation options; and

WHEREAS, trails are freely accessible community assets offering opportunities for transportation, recreation and exercise to everyone, including children, youth and families, schools and provide safe places for people to experience a sense of community and create stronger social and family ties; and

WHEREAS, trails have significant impact on the health and economic viability of the region through encouraging active lifestyles, increased levels of tourism, enhanced property values, added jobs related to the construction of and along the trail, as well as enhanced ability to attract and retain businesses to the region due to improved quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the “Berrien County Trails Master Plan” provides the foundation for a long-term strategy that will continue to grow and evolve and will provide an invaluable resource for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the City of Niles has identified the provision of trails as a priority in the future planning of Berrien County in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of the region.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City of Niles is committed to the promotion and continued development of the “Berrien County Trails Master Plan” and in concept to working with neighboring communities to plan, design, build and maintain a system of trails that will connect our communities, people and special regional points of interest for years to come.

Be it further resolved that the City of Niles will incorporate the “Berrien County Trails Master Plan” into our master plan, recreation plan and other relevant planning documents.

ADOPTED: RESOLUTION 2023-04/2184

YEAS: DiCostanzo, Thompson, Boggs, Bertschy, Dunnem, Rogers, Weimer

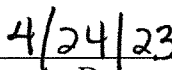
NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BERRIEN/VAN BUREN

I, the undersigned and duly elected Clerk of City of Niles, Berrien County, Michigan DO HEARBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete representation of the certain proceedings conducted by the City Council at a meeting held on the 24th day of April, 2023.



Tina Bergman, Clerk



Date

