

Park Board shares trail progress with commissioners

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By **Steven Collins Staff Reporter**

CIRCLEVILLE— The Pickaway County Park Board updated the county commissioners on their ongoing projects, funding and their plans for the future at Tuesday's regular meeting. Three members of the board, Tom Davis, Marshall Fields and Pete Hartinger, all attended the meeting to discuss the ongoing efforts with the Pickaway Trail and the Roundtown Trail. The Roundtown Trail will weave between the YMCA, over McHenry Ditch, behind the new schools and eventually go out to Ohio Christian University's campus, they said. "The Roundtown Trail is hopefully going to be completed by October," Hartinger said. "We've got the grants and things we need. Ryan Scribner (director of Pickaway Progress Partnership) has really helped us."

Hartinger said Davis would be working on a subcommittee with the schools to help get the road designed and signs mapped.

The Pickaway Trail, they said, is a planned trail to connect several communities in Pickaway County from New Holland to Circleville with trails that will be eventually paved.

Hartinger said the Park Board has been working to clear the trail and make it a hiking trail while the board works to find funds to pave it and make it easier to negotiate for foot traffic and bicycles.

"We're going to have a hiking trail first, and then we're going to look for grants and things to help pay for it to be paved," Hartinger said.

There are several more steps in this process, Hartinger said, including clearing the land of brush and trees and working with property owners who live or work next to the trail, as well as building a bridge to cross a 50-foot gap over Slick Run.

The board members also discussed the board's funding. They said they currently receive \$4,000 per year from the Pickaway County Historical Society to maintain Logan Elm State Park, and they have about \$77,000 from a deal they made with Dayton Power and Light for use of their land.

"Since we only have limited finances, we had to determine what we're going to focus on in the next year," Davis said. "We're going to focus on the Roundtown Trail because we have commitments there, but then we're going to focus on funds to open the Pickaway Trail and get that done."

There will probably be other projects that come up, he said, but the group would at least like to get the land cleared to state Route 138.