

**OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
VISIONING MEETING**

**January 19, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Navarre at 9:25 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

**PRESENT:**

Marge Gatliff, Kristen Wiltfang, Dan Duncan, Todd Scott, Lois Golden, Joe Figa, Larry Falardeau, Brian Blaesing, Kristen Myers, Sue Julian, Fred Dore, Dan Navarre, Rock Blanchard, Dan Stencil, Linda Bloch, Robert Golda, Sharon Greene, Triscia Pilchowski and Bruce Austin.

**MINUTES:**

Dan Navarre welcomed the committee and turned the meeting over to Larry Falardeau who lead the visioning meeting and made/received the following comments:

- Land Ethics did an Oakland County Trail Inventory and Assessment. That assessment has been used as a guide in the development of the Oakland County Trails Advisory Council (OTAC) and the creation of the Trails Network Coordinator position (Marge Gatliff).
- The master plan map was created with the intention of it being a guide, subject to revisions and changes as the trail network in the county evolves. This visioning will be an opportunity to update the master plan map.
- It is hoped that this vision will include the creation of the hierarchy of the trails, the sources of funding, and the prioritizing of the network trail development.
- Trail types: parklands, utility corridor, abandon railroads, road easement corridors.
- Trail/path usage: safety path, bike route, park path, trail conceptual path.
- It was suggested that multi-jurisdiction paths, local and corridor paths would be considered connectors if they help to link trails. However, the community funding the trail will have the ultimate input on the specifications and type of trail they install. Before the trail can achieve status of a specific type of trail (bike, etc.) the trails would need to meet specific standards to qualify for certain funding opportunities and to be considered a connector trail.
- Additional, more comprehensive data is also being collected for a database, but will not be included on the OTAC Map. Dan Duncan suggested that local connectors should be shown if they offered a link between larger connector trails (city to city, etc.)
- Fred Dore noted that a MDOT non-motorized advisory group has been formed in an effort to create a template for trail standards and suggested their template be considered to allow for integrating the county trail standards with MDOT's. Larry F indicated that coordination is necessary as OTAC considering the history and experience in trails and that OTAC and their standards may be used to assist MDOT.
- When a side path is used as a connector, it should be clearly noted on the map. Todd S. felt that local side paths connect residents with the community participating to promote the vision.
- Joe F. requested that small loops also be considered in this master plan.

**Larry Falardeau and Kerstin Wiltfang presentation** of the draft OTAC master plan trail map they developed. The map was reviewed by quadrants to receive the council input. All proposed trails that the council agreed to incorporate into the master plan map were checked for inclusion.

- The **northeast quadrant** trails addition to the master plan map were okayed by the council with the exception of the Brandon/Independence Township trail that was recommended for study/review status. It was noted that the ITC corridors are available, however, there is an ownership issue on part of the electrical easement they don't own, and also it was noted that health hazard issues must also be considered. Joe F suggested that the Independence Township Master Plan should be referenced also.

## **TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL VISION MEETING**

*January 19, 2005*

- The newly proposed **northwest quadrant** trails were all recommended for study/review status. Several options were noted and are to be considered.
- Proposed **southwest quadrant** trails were discussed with concerns about logical but undesirable (along freeways) trail locations being considered. In addition, the committee desires to verify the potential and assess the populations desire to link specific areas (i.e. Walled Lake).
- The **southeast quadrant** may be studied to determine desired/available trails. This area has a high population and is more likely to use the trail network to access their places of employment, parks, retail establishments, and schools. It appears that at this time M-5 should remain as a potential connector and as other possibilities are explored.

A subcommittee comprised of key players will be developed to further explore the needs and options for this portion of the county. Todd Scott will be the point person to assist in this study.

Larry Falardeau proposed a rough draft of the new OTAC master plan trail map be prepared and presented for approvals at the next meeting on January 26.

### **Trail Network Coordinator Report:**

- Thursday, January 20, 2005 is the Community Foundation workshop on "Wayfinding" and signage.
- The MRPA Trails Committee met in Woodhaven for their first meeting on January 14. The group toured the Downriver Linked Greenways project. An on-line exchange of comments/information is available on the MRPA web site [www.mrpaonline.org](http://www.mrpaonline.org)
- Paul Pounders ordered signage from the Michigan Department of Corrections for a reasonable amount. Contact Marge for more information.
- The next MRPA trails committee meeting is on February 7, 2005 at the conference. At future meetings trails will be toured with the exception of the conference meeting. Contact Marge for more information.
- The Paint Creek study has been completed. A revised report was received by Marge. The reports will be distributed at the January OTAC meeting. Marge will request a presentation be given on the report at the March OTAC meeting.
- Marge Gatliff has been selected by MDOT to sit on their non-motorized advisory committee.
- Dan Duncan will be retiring from the Huron Clinton Metro Authority. He will be leaving in February. Marge congratulated him on his retirement and thanked him for his service to OTAC.
- Dan Navarre will be leaving his post as an OTAC chair. His last meeting will be in January. Marge suggested pizza be served after the meeting to commemorate his service to OTAC.
- Amy Murray was presented with MRPA's Community Service Award for her service to the Polly Ann Trail.

The meeting was adjured at 11:05 am.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 26, 2005 at 9:00 in the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission Room.**

*Suzanne Ball  
Oakland County Parks and Recreation*