

TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
January 7, 2003
10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Chairman Chris Doozan, Vice Chairman Dan Navarre, Dan Duncan, Mike Hartner, Bret Rasegan, Larry Falardeau, Todd Scott, Kristen Bennett, Todd Kauffman, Dot Lalone, Amy Murray, Brian Blaesing, Kevin Larsen, Dee Pasquantonio, Megan Wiswesser, Kristen Myers, Tom Barwin, Ralph Richard, Sue Julian, Rock Blanchard

MINUTES:

Minutes of the December 3, 2002 meeting, were accepted as written.

TRAILS COORDINATOR POSITION:

Ralph Richard reported on the status of the trails coordinator position, noting the trails coordinator position has been approved by staff at Personnel and is scheduled to go to the Personnel Committee and the Board of Commissioners for their approval. The salary range for this position is still being negotiated.

Mr. Richard requested one or two volunteers from the council to assist with the oral examination portion of the hiring process. Kevin Larsen and Dan Navarre volunteered, with Amy Murray offering to be an alternate, if needed.

A copy of the trails coordinator job description will be distributed to the members.

The trails coordinator will be reporting to Oakland County Parks' Chief of Design and Development.

Responsibilities for the coordinator were discussed, including:

- Focus on getting familiar with all the resources
- Set up the office to be the point person for all the information to be gathered and updated.
- Assemble a list of key contact people for technical information.
- Identify and understand all national funding sources for acquisitions, development, and maintenance, plus be a resource for that information to interested communities.
- Create additional funding (corporate donations).
- Act as an advocate for the trails, including speaking to communities, councils, and groups about the benefits of and need for the trails.

TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL STRUCTURE:

Members concurred on the following structure of the council:

Voting members:

Group
Paint Creek Trail

Representative
Bill Stark

Polly Ann Trail	Amy Murray
Clinton River Trail	Mike Hartner
West Bloomfield/Multi-Jurisdictional Trail	Dan Navarre
Huron Valley Trail	Christopher Doozan
Headwaters Trail	Dorothy Lalone
Woodward Corridor Trail	Tom Barwin
O. C. Planning	Larry Falardeau
O. C. Bd. of Commissioners	Vacant
O. C. Drain Commission	Kevin Larsen
O. C. Parks	Ralph Richard
Road Commission for Oakland County	Brian Blaesing
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority	Dan Duncan
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources	Kristen Bennett
Michigan Dept. of Transportation	Todd Kauffman
Business Community	Vacant

Non-voting members (advisory):

Rails to Trails Conservancy	Nancy Krupiarz
Michigan Mountain Biking Assoc.	Todd Scott
League of Michigan Bicyclists	
Equestrian Interests	Merle Richmond
Land Conservancies	
Healthy People/Healthy Oakland	
Shiawassee River Task Force	Sue Julian

Larry Falardeau will approach the Business Round Table for possible interest from someone to serve as the business representative.

Council concurred that bylaws should be written. Members were requested to e-mail edited versions of any bylaws available throughout the represented agencies to Ralph Richard. Bylaws that address structure and future changes will be helpful. Amy Murray will compile the information for review and approval.

Composition of the mission statement will be placed on the next meeting's agenda. Members were requested to compile ideas and notes in preparation for that discussion.

Major goals for 2003 for the council, working with the coordinator, include:

- Work on a comprehensive mapping of the trails, including defining mapping needs (vision mapping, progress tracking mapping, users guide mapping). Determine what maps will be most useful for the trails groups and the county as a whole.
- Visit the trail groups, Oakland County Planning, etc., and compile status reports on what's in progress and what has been done.
- Inventory existing trails and easements.
- Inventory and identify needed items for the trails' acquisition and/or development.
- Research what is being done elsewhere in the state and around the country in respect to trails standards.
- Compile and make available a specifications manual (possibly through the county's website).

- Technical support: a strong need for defining standards, setting guidelines, and options for current best practices. Assemble and make that information available to all the trail groups.

Council determined it will not be subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Future meetings will be regularly scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month.

Available county resources:

- Unofficial \$35,000 budget through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and the County Executive's office
- Mapping resources through Planning and Economic Development
- Possible inclusion of trails on the map distributed by the Road Commission for Oakland County

EXISTING TRAILS SURVEY:

Chairman Doozan distributed a survey to gather information on existing trails. He requested the surveys be completed and sent to Ralph Richard within the next week or so, in order for the information to be compiled in time for the next meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

To alleviate confusion with other "TAC" groups, the council concurred on the use of "OTAC" for the acronym.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2003, in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration office.

Karen Kohn CPS/CAP