

OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
January 14, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chairman, Dan Navarre at 1:10 p.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration office.

PRESENT:

Vice-chairman Dan Navarre, Trails Network Coordinator Marge Gatliff, Joe Figa, Kristen Wiltfang, Larry Falardeau, Dan Stencil, Ed Coe, Brian Blaesing, Mike Hartner Dave Allyn, Sargent Mike Searing, Lee Liston, Andre Lennertz, Judie Veresuk, Sam Lovall, Norm Cox

MINUTES:

The minutes of December 10, 2003 shall be considered for approval at the OTAC meeting of February 11, 2004.

TRAIL SECURITY – OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (OCSD)

Sargent Searing of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department reported on the availability of the OCSD mounted unit for use to provide security on county trails. There can be no contract established to provide these services due to the limited availability of the mounted unit. A few hours may be devoted to trail events but no regularly scheduled hours. These services will be provided at no cost when available. Requests for the mounted unit for an event are to be submitted to the OCSD. When available, two mounted officers with radio communication would be assigned.

The mountain bike patrol unit could also be utilized at trail events for security. However, it would depend upon their availability and would require approval by Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR). All requests for the mountain bike patrol are to be submitted to Sargent Mike Searing.

Dan Stencil will formulate an allocation letter.

Mike Searing will continue as the OCSD representative at the OTAC meetings.

TRAILS NETWORK UPDATE

West Bloomfield's Multi-Jurisdictional Trail representative Dan Navarre reported that their project to restore their Heron Rookery has been abandoned for this year due to cost over-runs. Their single bid submission was for \$95,000 to install the required 60/80-foot tall poles needed for this project.

Clinton River Trail representative Mike Hartner reported that funds to construct a bridge over the Clinton River to accommodate the trail and miscellaneous intersection improvements have been approved and an agreement is now being formulated. This is a \$650,000 project with \$400,000 being provided by a TEA MDOT grant.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ISLAND PRESENTATION

The master plan proposal developed for Clinton River Trail/Rochester Hills, Greenways Collaborative Inc. was presented by Norm Cox. It was a comprehensive demonstration and assessment of safety issues and how they could be addressed in Rochester Hills. The advantages and disadvantages of each option was demonstrated. Included were options of safety islands, pavement marking, signage, push-button crossings, overpasses, underpasses, and improved visibility.

Road Commission for Oakland County representatives Dave Allyn and Andre Lennertz agreed that education of the public and cooperation when developing trail crossings and road improvements should continue in an effort to provide optimal safety to trail and roadway users.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

An informational article provided by Ralph Richard addressing legislative action was made available to OTAC meeting participants.

MASTER PLAN

The scheduled master plan meeting for this date was cancelled.

TRAILS NETWORK COORDINATOR UPDATE

---Marge requested that the Oakland County Business Round Table address their business partners for the OTAC group to seek support in the form of promotional items, funding, etc. It was proposed that through common interests businesses partnering with trails would be mutually beneficial. Marge is developing a data base of persons/organizations to assist OTAC in the development and promotion of their projects and requested members forward any contacts they may be aware of, including their contact persons, address phone numbers, etc.

---The OTAC website is now available and can be accessed through the Oakland County Web Site www.co.oakland.mi.us, proceed to the Oakland County Parks page, Pick a Trail. Links to the individual trail sites can be accessed from there.

---A Multi Jurisdictional meeting is planned for January 28 at 9:00 a.m. in Wixom. Contact Marge Gatliff for additional information.

HAMILTON ANDERSON ASSOCIATES

HamiltonAnderson representatives Judie Veresuk and Sam Lovall gave a power point presentation of their "Greenway Planning & Design" project.

OTHER BUSINESS; COMMENTS.

---Brian Blessing of RCOC submitted a packet of the Oakland County road construction projects scheduled for the next three years. Copies are available from Marge Gatliff upon request. This was submitted in an effort to aid in coordination of trail crossings in the areas of new highway projects.

---The Michigan Mountain Bike Association Southeast Chapter was recently awarded a Community Service Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association. The City of Novi Parks, Recreation, and Forestry nominated the MMBA for the development of a 10-mile bike and hike trail network at Lakeshore Park. OTAC applauds this achievement and extends their congratulations.

---Greg Givens of Oakland County Fiscal Services will be giving a presentation at the February OTAC meeting to assist in identifying available grants that could be utilized by OTAC members.

---Marge Gatliff introduced the "Count Your Steps" program. Oakland County Parks and Recreation and trails are collaborating with Oakland County and Oakland Schools to promote healthy lifestyles for 314 Oakland County grade schools. Students who participate will receive a pedometer to count their steps. For more information go to www.countyoursteps.org.

---See Marge Gatliff with requests or suggestions for presenters and/or topics for future OTAC meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2004** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration office.

SJB, Oakland County Parks and Recreation