

**OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING**

**January 26, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Navarre at 9:06 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, Barry Culham, Larry Falardeau, Ralph Richard, Kristen Myers, Sue Julian, Fred Dore, Ed Coe, Sue Nyquist, Karis Floyd, Dave Burley, Dan Stencil, Sharon Greene and Bruce Austin.

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Kristen Myers, supported by Sue Julian, to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2004 meeting as submitted. The motion passed on voice vote.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:**

- Chairman Navarre requested the addition of the election for the new vice-chair for OTAC.

The addition to the agenda was approved on voice vote.

**TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:**

- Paint Creek Trail: Kristen Myers reported that the survey report by Michigan State is now available. An article on the survey was distributed. Contact Kristen or Marge Gatliff for more information, if desired.

Paint Creek is acquiring land to extending the North end of the trail by 1/3 mile.

- The Polly Ann Trail is working with Wade Trim Architectural firm to revise the specifications for the Bridge project in Lake Orion to meet the MDOT standards and resolve any outstanding issues. The Polly Ann Trail is hoping for a time extension for their funding and will need to work aggressively to complete project within the grant requirements.

Lois Golden reported that they are looking into meeting the DNR grant requirements to qualify for state funding.

- Clinton River Trail is hoping to have their new bridge completed in time for the Michigander bike ride this summer

Rochester is in the process of making two potential land swaps, making room for a parking lot and allowing the trail to run next to the river with the appropriate amenities.

Pontiac has approved the bridge over telegraph and the Clinton River Trail is receiving \$75,000 from the Greenways Initiatives Grant to fund the study.

- The West Bloomfield Trail representative Dan Navarre introduced Dave Burley, who will be his replacement on OTAC.
- The Lakes Community Trail extension project is out to bid. Cost will be a factor in this project as they have been required to increase the trail width from 10' to 12'.
- Huron Valley Trail continues to work on extending the trail north through Kensington Metropark.
- Headwaters Trail representative Sue Julian reported that there now is currently no village planner. They are regrouping and trying to find funding sources. They need \$90,000 and do not have enough community base for creating the match.

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### **TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT**

Trail Network Coordinator Marge Gatliff gave a brief overview of the last months activities and materials available, including the following:

- There are only four boxes of the Oakland County Trail Maps remaining. Marge has started accumulating a list of prospective contributors for funding of future printing of the maps. Please contact her with any prospective donors/partners.

Ralph Richard reported that he and Larry Falardeau will contact the Oakland County Executive Office for assistance with the next printing.

- The minutes of the Visioning Master Plan meeting was distributed.
- Marge reported that she has a "Risk and Trails" manual available upon request.
- Dan Stencil is requesting a list of individuals from organizations interested in maintaining open space for recreational, environmental and preservation purposes for an event on March 10 at Addison Oaks.
- The Lakes Community Trail Meeting has been rescheduled to Friday, February 4, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wixom Community Center.
- The CFSEM Wayfinding Workshop Resource Binder was passed for members to review. It is available upon request from Marge.
- Golf carts are not allowed on the trails unless an individual receives specific exemption. Power scooters and wheelchairs are approved for use on the trails for those with special needs.

### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Kirsten Myers nominated Lois Golden to be the OTAC vice-chair for the next six months. The motion was seconded by Dan Duncan and passed on vote.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- ◆ Todd Scott reported that the legislators agreed to not make it illegal for bikers to ride two abreast. They are looking for ideas to include in the specifications, including signage ideas. It has been suggested that questions including bikers be included in the Department of Motor Vehicle testing for drivers licenses.

Todd sent Senator Bishop a recommendation for a state-wide trail pass for consideration.

- ◆ Dan Navarre gave an overview of an issue regarding mineral rights on tax reverted lands, which may affect trail Trust Funding.
- ◆ Marge Gatliff announced that there will not be a Trails Legislative Day for the year 2005. Plans are to host one in 2006.

### **MASTER PLAN VISIONING MEETING UPDATE**

Larry Falardeau recapped the visioning meeting of January 19. He presented the new master plan map based on additions/deletions from the meeting. Corrections and additions to the plan were offered.

The OTAC goals and objectives were reviewed briefly. Funding for materials was an issue that needs to be an objective of one of the goals.

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A sub-committee was formed to review the goals and objectives in depth and offer changes and/or additions/deletions. Volunteers for the committee will be Kristen Myers, Marge Gatliff, Sue Julian, Larry Falardeau and Lois Golden as chairperson. One of their objectives is to redefine the current goals and create tasks.

Another item to be reviewed will be OTAC's relationship with MRPA now that there is a trails committee.

Members are ask to review the goals and objectives and to bring their suggestions/ideas to the sub-committee for consideration.

The revised goals and objectives will be returned to the membership in March.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS**

- Ralph Richard requested that a letter from OTAC be drafted to HCMA thanking them for their support. Larry Falardeau moved that the letter be drafted and Dan Navarre seconded it.
- Ralph Richard offered thanks to Dan Navarre for his service as chairman of OTAC for the last 12 months.
- Fred Dore announced that there will be a MMB Expo at Springfield Oaks Activity Center on Wednesday, July 20. There will be bike swaps, a presentation by an endurance cyclist and many other features. He also made the 2005 Tour Calendar available showing 90 bike tour opportunities in Michigan that are scheduled at this time.
- MDOT is developing a non-motorized vehicle group. Marge Gatliff is a member and will keep OTAC abreast of the developments.
- This years Michigan Horse Conference is in Lansing in March. Contact Sharon Greene for additional information.
- Sue Julian requested that the OTAC, as a group, express their support of reasonable grant extensions for Greenways funding. Ralph Richard suggested that Marge draft a letter representing OTAC in this regard and that it be signed by the OTAC Chair Kristen Myers to confirm solid support on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 23, 2005** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

*sjb, Oakland County Parks and Recreation*