

OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
March 24, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Navarre at 9:10 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

Thanks were offered to Christopher Doozan for acting as chair for the council for the previous year.

PRESENT:

Chairman Dan Navarre, Trails Network Coordinator Marge Gatliff, Joe Figa, Kristen Wiltfang, Larry Falardeau, Mike Hartner, Linda Bloch, Dan Duncan, Sue Julian, Karen Tauriainen, Merle Richmond, Tom Noechel, John Crumm, Gerald Santoro, Anthony Casasanta, Christopher Doozan, Ralph Richard, Bill Laitner, Todd Scott, Roger Busch, Amy Murray

MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Hartner, supported by Mr. Richard, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2004, as submitted.

The group discussed trails accomplishments, goals, and the future direction of the council. The committee will determine the future goals and needs. The topic will be brought back up in April.

A request was made to set up a meeting with the Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) regarding railroad crossings.

The Oakland County trails network logo and name was discussed. The name "Oak Routes" was suggested. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

The schedule for the Oakland County Trail Advisory Council will remain the same—the fourth Wednesday of each month.

TRAILS NETWORK UPDATE

Polly Ann: Amy reported on the press conference regarding the connection of the Polly Ann and Paint Creek trails. Three options were presented (1.) Across Bald Mountain State Park (2.) Polly Ann to Leonard using Indianwood Road (3.) Township safety path will connect to the park road. She also made announcements regarding events and bike races.

The Clinton River Trails Survey is on the website to educate the public on trail types: asphalt limestone, stabilized crushed stone. People vote and e-mail trails locations to see if there is more than one in a location. Todd Scott is willing to assist other groups interested in tracking this type of information.

West Bloomfield Trail: Update on the rookery herons coming back next to their trails.

Multi-Jurisdiction Trail: The group is organizing and is in the planning stages. The communities are Walled Lake, Wolverine, Commerce, and Wixom. They are trying to agree on a common name. "Lakes Community Trail" has been proposed to the municipalities and a decision will be made. They have good representation and some \$400,000 available to connect neighborhoods.

Huron Valley Trail: It is proposed to cross the trail. Milford Lakes Development wants to cross at Pontiac Trail. Official word comes from Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) but relinquish to our recommendation. Crossing policy drafted by DNR and edited for fit to Polly Ann Trails. A copy is available from Chris Doozan.

Headwaters Trails – has lost their office and is looking for space in Holly, Springfield, or Rose Township. Trail construction will soon begin.

Woodward Corridor: MDOT resurfacing in Ferndale – Todd presented and the DDA is interested. They are looking into it. The safety concerns are being addressed. Cyclists are using the corridor and motorists are adjusting to the bikers.

I-275 update -- Met with MDOT to discuss I-275 progress and it is going well. Recommendations are being considered and photos have been provided. Suggestions are being considered. They plan to open the whole length in Wayne County and the connector at Michigan Avenue. Greg Johnson is the contact. An MDOT advisory council for non-motorized transportation has been formed.

PRESENTATION ON MACOMB ORCHARD TRAIL

Anthony Casasanta, gave a presentation on the 23.5-miles trail. It connects with the Clinton River Trail. A video was shown on the history of the Orchard Trail. County purchased the abandoned rail trail. The new trail will be complete 2006-7. Twenty-seven municipalities are working together for the first time for this development on the linear corridor. County plan: Master Plan maps shown. 400 people attended the public forum. Public voted and helped to rank trails. Macomb County trail will connect with Oakland County's trail network. The plan is to connect at the Clinton River and Polly Ann trails. For more information, go to the website address: www.wadetrail.com.

Marge announced the County Trails Summit planned at Independence Oaks on Thursday, Sept 9, 2004.

MASTER PLAN

The master plan subcommittee will meet after this March 24, 2004, OTAC meeting. Members of the master plan subcommittee are working on their individual tasks.

TRAILS NETWORK COORDINATOR UPDATE

- Deanna McGee, of Wixom requested letter of support of a grant application for natural areas in Wixom. Amy moved that OTAC offer a letter of support. Dan made a motion that a letter be drafted and mailed; and was approved by members.
- Earth Day, April 22, 2004, will be celebrated on the capitol lawn.
- Letter of supporting the Oakland County Parks and Recreation grant application for trail at Independence Oaks was submitted as approved.
- The Brad Gorman publication regarding activities in Michigan and offering ideas for day hikes in a magazine was available as a handout at OTAC. This publication will publish trail events.
- Anita Twardesky provided a brochure on Southeast Michigan Greenways that Marge made available.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Stencil reported on his trip to DC in Feb – NRPA - funds, 400 reps from every state, met with our representatives, chiefs of staff, message funds are very important. Senate is passing resolution to fix the amount to be used.

OTHER BUSINESS; COMMENTS

- Amy Murray was elected Vice Chair of OTAC.
- Chairman of OTAC is to serve for six months. Chris Doozan served for two terms. Dan is currently serving as chair for 6 month. Amy will serve as Vice Chair, and move her up to chair when Dan's term is complete. It was moved to appoint Amy Murray as vice chair by Chris Doozan, supported by Larry Falardeau, approved on voice vote It was also moved and supported to appoint Mike Hartner as the 2nd vice chair.
- Tom Wiowode, Greenways Initiative, will be our speaker at our next meeting.

- Anita Twardesky will present in June
- MRPA trail committee forming – A meeting recap was given. It was determined that there is interest to create a committee through MRPA. The goals, objectives and BI-laws must be prepared. The committee will present to the MRPA board meeting in June.
- Trail brochure was passed around for approval. Submit your trail events to Marge.
- Equestrian update. Handout. Oakland Press article. Highland to include toilet, water trough. Three teams competed. Next year at least 100 teams. 300 at high school level.
- Letter parks and recreation 3 parks. Springfield Oaks and Addison Oaks. Master plan for Rose Oaks. Considered. Letters to trails, “horses permitted” on greenways. Brochure by Oakland County by June on equestrian. Mountain bike trails.
- Pedometers on order. They will be distributed to Trail leaders for prizes if you participate in the Walk Michigan/Walk Oakland program. See Marge for details.

The meeting adjourned 11:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2004** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

LSB, Oakland County Parks and Recreation