

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (OTAC)
April 26, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Trails Advisory Council Chair Kristen Myers at 9:07 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

PRESENT:

Kristen Myers, Marge Gatliff, Linda Bloch, Kristen Wiltfang, Todd Scott, Dan Stencil, Wesley King, Sharon Greene, Deanna Magee, Christopher Doozan, Bruce Austin, Susan Nyquist, Susie Sulla, Rich Sulla, Larry Falardeau, Jenny Frederick, Shawn Speaker, Robin Ferriby, Kristen Bennett

MINUTES:

Moved by Kristen Wiltfang, supported by Kristen Bennett, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2006 OTAC meeting. The motion passed on voice vote.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Todd Scott requested item 9a be added to address a letter to the Road Commission of Oakland County.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- **Paint Creek Trail**-Kristen Myers reported that the Polly Ann Trail has received 12 proposals in response to the RFP issued for a base map survey. They are currently evaluating them and a selection will be made in May.

The new Paint Creek maps are now available and display a list of their sponsors and the location of each sponsor.

The Paint Creek has obtained Meijer as a corporate sponsor for their National Trail Day Events.

- **Polly Ann Trail** - Kristen Meyers reported for Lois Golden that a \$21,000 short fall in funds has caused a delay in the bridge construction.

Complaints have been received regarding the surface of the trail. The size of the aggregate seems too large for some trail users.

As of May 15, the Polly Ann will have a new trail manager.

- **Clinton River Trail** - Bruce Austin reported that they are currently working on their bench memorial project. The type of bench has been selected and the remaining details are being finalized.

The new surface placed in the Rochester portion of the trail has compacted and is satisfactory to the users

Pontiac is looking into providing some surfacing material and some curb cuts to accommodate the new route.

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- **Huron Valley Trail** is currently working with Giffels-Webster Engineers designing 14 trail crossings and a new "Ring Road" around New Hudson in Lyon Township. Funding for this project is currently being sought.
- The **Woodward Corridor Trail** had no new news. Todd Scott noted that it will be suggested to MDOT that the Ferndale bike lanes may be temporarily removed as an option during the I-75 construction is complete.
- **Headwaters Trail** - Marge Gatliff reported on behalf of Dot Lalone that the Headwaters Trail is working with Independence Township to help promote the connectivity of trails.

The Headwaters Trail is sponsoring the Holly to Fenton Canoe Race on the Shiawassee River on Sunday, May 21, 2006. Registrations were made available.

DNR - MANAGEMENT UPDATE

There will be a public meeting to review and make comments on the draft plan for the future of Pontiac Lake Recreation Area.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY PRESENTATION

Robin Ferriby gave a presentation on the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan. The Foundation serves seven counties of southeast Michigan. Within these counties, the Foundation supports a wide variety of charitable programs and activities. There are over 750 funds that they can match with potential recipients.

One of the foundation's goals is to increase regional philanthropy. By building permanent charitable resources for our region, permanent community capital can be made available for charitable programs and organizations working to improve the quality of life in southeast Michigan. The Foundation is often able to setup matching funds for gifts of \$1,000 or more for an eligible community foundation with dollars provided by challenge grants. An endowment fund of \$10,000 or more gets the use of Foundation staff to manage the fund.

Through its grantmaking programs, the Foundation endeavors to build, strengthen and improve southeast Michigan. For a complete, up-to-date list of grantmaking programs available, call the Foundation or visit their web site at www.cfsem.org/grants/.

GREENWAYS MEETING RECAP

Larry Falardeau of Oakland County Planning and Development recapped the GreenWays Initiative meeting of April 12. The minutes of the meeting were made available.

Larry ask that members provide documentation of their needs to Oakland County Planning and Economic Development to facilitate planning and be incorporated in GreenWays Initiative communications.

TRAIL VANDALISM

It was moved that the trail vandalism be addressed at the May OTAC meeting.

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TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

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

- The MRPA Walk Michigan/Walk Oakland flyers are available. No treadmill mileage can be included on the registration sheets (xerox copies can be used). The program kicks off on May 6 at Independence Oaks County Park.
- OTAC is working in conjunction with Oakland County Human Resources Department on an Oakland County Wellness Initiative.
- The second Community Foundation Workshop will be held on May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Southfield Library. Any materials to be displayed needs to have an easel included.
- Information on the I-275 trail project was passed for review.
- Marge requested that OTAC members encourage local trail day events and the bridge crossing.

MEMORIAL BENCH PROGRAMS

Dave Burley sent in a sample plaque used for his bench donation program. Marge Gatliff made Oakland County Parks and Recreations Memorial Bench Program materials available.

A word of caution was given regarding memorial programs due to potential vandalism and plant material failure.

MISC

There was a request for a recommendation regarding sending a letter about road shoulders. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Senate Bills 971 and 972 would make it more difficult to sell off state parks. It is proposed that sales involving parcels of 100 acres or more than 15% of a park, be required to go to the legislative branch for approval. These bills are a response to Russell Harding position paper suggesting Michigan sell 14 state parks.
- House bill 5814 is one to keep an eye on. It proposes means to block the DNR from purchasing land in some communities.
- It was requested that members write letters to their representatives supporting the River Trails Assistance Program. There is the potential that this program may be cut in the new budget year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2006** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

Marge Gatliff, Trail Network Coordinator