

OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
April 28, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chairman Amy Murray at 9:05 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

PRESENT:

Marge Gatliff, Joe Figa, Kristen Wiltfang, Larry Falardeau, Mike Hartner, Linda Bloch, Dan Duncan, Sue Julian, Merle Richmond, Tom Woiwode, Dan Lord, Christopher Doozan, Todd Scott, Amy Murray, Tracy Devereaux, Larry Lockwood, Kirsten Myers, Ed Coe, Dot Lalone, Ralph Richard, Dave Burley

MINUTES:

Moved by Chris Doozan, supported by Mike Hartner, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2004 meeting, as amended.

Amy Murray received additions to the agenda as follows: Larry Lockwood presenting Waterford Township 2004 Trail Update, Dan Lord presenting Trail from M-24 to Kern through Bald Mountain, and Merle Richmond's update on Equestrian activities.

TRAILS NETWORK UPDATE

Paint Creek Trail: Kristen Myers reported that a new 1/3-mile extension of the trail into Lake Orion will be completed by National Trails Day. Resurfacing of the entire trail will take place in November. Limestone surface will be used for this paving. The specifications used for the limestone surface is available to those who request it.

Polly Ann Trail: Amy Murray noted the need for a dialogue with the various municipalities involved with the development of the trails network to establish a guide for permitting was expressed. Conditional permitting often allows trails for buffering or allowing run-off on to trails for various development projects. The opportunity to be proactive is now, before misuse of the trail easements occurs. Marge and Amy to develop a recommendation and/or develop a committee to consider.

The Clinton River Trail: Mike Hartner reported that the final plans for their intersection improvements have been submitted to Rochester Hills for approval. MDOT approval of this project is expected in May of 2004. After all approvals are received, the project will be put to bid.

The road crossing policy established by the Clinton River Trails is on file with Marge for duplication by anyone who request it.

West Bloomfield Trail: Dave Burley represented the West Bloomfield Trail for Dan Navarre

Lakes Community Trail is the new name of the Multi-Jurisdiction Trail

Headwaters Trail: The Headwaters Trail has submitted grant applications to the Mott Foundation and Michigan Department of Natural Resources for funding. They are also sponsoring a trails event on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The availability of Metro Authority Funds was noted. This is a new funding source mandated by the state, to municipalities for use in the right-of-ways (i.e. trails, landscaping, planning, etc.)

MMBA/Woodward Corridor: Todd Scott reported that he received media coverage for an event announcing the addition the bike lanes to Woodward Avenue in Ferndale. The tape is available for use at a future OTAC if interest is expressed.

BALD MOUNTAIN TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Dan Lord reported on a new trail being developed in the Bald Mountain Park. This trail is being developed in a utility easement and will connect M-24 with Kern. Dan noted that this trail could be used, in part, to provide connection between the Polly Ann Trail and the Paint Creek Trail. Dan will supply up-dates of the project to Marge as it progresses.

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The Master Plan subcommittee will meet following the OTAC meeting. The agenda for the master plan has been finalized and tasks assigned to individuals. After the assigned tasks are completed and draft master plans developed, it will be presented to the OTAC.

#### TRAILS NETWORK COORDINATOR UPDATE

- The "Walk Michigan-Walk Oakland" event was recapped by Marge Gatliff.
- Notify Marge if you have any trail events to be noted to the brochure or website.
- Nancy Krupiarz ask that OTAC members notify Rails to Trails of any National Trail Day events they have scheduled as soon as possible.
- Thursday, September 9, 2004 there will be a County Summit held at Independence Oaks Oakland County Park at 12:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. Attendance by all trail groups is encouraged.
- The National Trails Day events will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2004 in the City of Wixom. A "Hike or Bike" event at Habitat Park.
- Thirty pedometers will be available for each trail group for special events. Marge will distribute them.
- Kristen Wiltfang gave a brief brochure update. The county is currently developing a logo and has acquired quotations from Mr. Patterson, Lewis, and Richard for inclusion on the brochure. Kristen requested that all OTAC members check the panels for correctness and report the error(s) to Marge if found.
- In June, Anita Twardesky will give a presentation on the downriver greenways. OTAC is open to other guest speakers. Contact Marge if you have a recommendation.
- MRPA trails committee is to meet on May 6. Bylaws will be established. The trails committee will have a vote at the board level, offering the opportunity for trails to have more voice.
- After the OTAC Master Plan subcommittee meeting there will be a luncheon meeting at the Summit Place Ruby Tuesdays. This meeting is part of a Michigan State study of the Oakland County trail system. Following lunch, a tour of the Paint Creek Trail will be conducted. The State is conducting this study to determine trails impact on tourism, the economy, municipalities, users, and transportation alternatives.
- Marge reminded OTAC members that if they need law enforcement presence (bike patrol) at any of their events, they need to submit a request in writing to Dan Stencil of Oakland County Parks and Recreation.
- Marge received a message indicating that Winnie Chrzanowski would like to volunteer on our trails. If you can use her services, contact Marge for more information.

#### BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Larry Falardeau reported that he is presenting the possibility of business partnering with trails at the Automation Alley, Business Round Table meeting. If they are receptive to the idea, a formal request will be drafted by OTAC. The OTAC Master Plan will provide a guide for drafting this request, outlining options for sponsorship.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On May 18, members are encouraged to attend Michigan Trails & Greenways Legislature Day to promote the trails and offer information regarding trails networking.

Todd Scott reported that a new bill was introduced the legislator making a 1.5 million from revenue sharing available for funding projects.

#### WATERFORD TOWNSHIP PLANNER – LARRY LOCKWOOD

Mr. Lockwood gave a presentation of Waterfords plans to increase walkability in the township and connection with other communities. Waterford is in the center of Oakland County and has 32 lakes. The new 2003 Waterfords Township Master Plan addresses these deficiencies as does their new 2004 Waterford Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Natural features will be showcased as they develop their Riverwalk. The first link in connecting their trails will be along M-59 by the Oakland International Airport.

New streetscaping will be developed along the airport. In the fall of 2004, the Rider Cup is coming to Bloomfield Hills, Oakland County. With over 400 private jets coming into the airport for this event, Waterford has made the enhancement of this corridor a priority.

The realignment of Williams Lake Road will also provide a smoother transition for commuters and a trail link to access Pontiac Lake Recreation Area. A grant application is being submitted to fund this project.

Mr. Lockwood requested a letter of support for their grant submittal to the Mott foundation for funding from OTEC.

It was moved by Chris Doozan and seconded by Larry Falardeau that Marge Gatliff draft a letter of support from OTEC for this grant application. The motion was carried on voice vote.

#### GREEN WAYS INITIATIVE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Tom Woiwode, Director of the Green Ways Initiative Foundation, gave a presentation on the Green Way Initiative. The Green Way Initiative concepts represent bike paths, pedestrian pathways, a "Green Way" of living, and a means for communities to relate to each other. This is a 5-year effort that started in 2001. These funds are available to organizations that invest in promoting these concepts by implementing projects, providing public awareness, and engaging gateway projects. Currently these funds have been matched at a 1:5 ratio.

There are two types of grants: land acquisition and pre-development grants. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the next deadline for grant applications. Rules for application booklets were made available at the meeting. Additional books are available by contacting the Green Way Initiative Foundation.

The "Green Forum III – Greenway Infrastructure: Bringing the Region Together" is being held May 19, 2004, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at The Henry Ford (a new Village Pavilion on the grounds of Greenfield Village). The Forum is free of charge. Contact the Foundation if you are interested in attending.

The request to ask Mr. Woiwode to return in May to meet as a "Think Tank" to offer input on the future role of the Green Ways Initiative Foundation in Oakland County.

#### OTHER BUSINESS: COMMENTS

Merle Richmond gave an equestrian up-date for Oakland County members. She offered a handout from the Highland Township Planners demonstrating their concept for inclusion of equestrian activities in their new communities. She elaborated a development plan for equestrian friendly community concept that offers a 60-foot setback to accommodate these activities.

Mrs. Richmond also noted that the Great Lakes Old People's Riding Club had volunteered to help to maintain trails on Rose Oaks County Park and that she was working with Dan Stencil to allow equestrian use of Springfield Oaks when there are no scheduled events.

A list of equestrian opportunities in Oakland County will be offered as a link from the OTAC website.

Todd Scott noted that parcels were available for purchase along the Silverdome that could provide a northwest link for trails. However, the costs appear to be prohibitive.

The concept of approaching the utilities as a group for obtaining approval for trails in utility easements was discussed.

The meeting adjourned 11:35 a.m.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 26, 2004** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.