

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING**

May 25, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kristen Myers at 9:05 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

PRESENT:

Marge Gatliff, Kristen Wiltfang, Kristen Myers, Sue Sulla, Rich Sulla, Dave Burley, Bruce Austin, Karen Tauriainen, Dot LaLone, Robert Golda, Linda Bloch, Sharon Greene, Lois Golden, Deanna McGee, Barry Culham, Brittany Bird, Joe Figa, Jim Keglovitz, Todd Scott, Larry Falardeau, Sue Nyquist, Brian Blaesing, and Matt Baker.

MINUTES:

Moved by Bruce Austin, supported by Dot LaLone, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2005 meeting as corrected by Marge Gatliff. The motion passed on voice vote.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- **Paint Creek Trail** Kristen Myers reported they have contracted with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department for two 8-hour patrols each week by the mounted division deputies on Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer.

A contract for the installation of drinking fountains on the trail has been awarded. Installation is currently being coordinated.

- The **Polly Ann Trail** reported that the bridge project is experiencing additional delays. Completion within the grant allotted time frame will be difficult.
- The **Clinton River Trail** bridge is being installed and should be operable in time for the Michigander event.
- Dot Lalone reported that the **Headwaters Trail** completed a planting of native plant material at Waterworks Park. The Headwaters is still working on finalizing a lease of the building at Waterworks Park.

Headwaters trail is sponsoring a canoe race on June 4. It will be the first race done at the park in 18 years.

The Harding Mott Foundation is providing funding to help build a bridge behind the Waterworks Park building, linking both sides of the park.

MASTER PLAN & MAP UPDATES - KRISTEN WILTFANG

Kristen displayed maps and posters showing the master plan update and gave a brief overview on the progress of this project. She asks that each trail pick-up their trail summary sheets and complete them as soon as possible so that the data can be included in the master plan map. Turn the completed sheets into Kristen Wiltfang of Oakland County Planning and Economic Development.

Larry Falardeau explained that even an estimated cost for the trail and trail improvements could be included. The data will be used for communicating with business entities and the business roundtable when attempting to create funding sources.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Marge Gatliff distributed the new goals and objective. Brian Blessing suggested one change. The corrected Goals and Objectives will be e-mailed to members.

Kristen M asked if a list of the completed accomplishments had been compiled. Larry Falardeau though it would be helpful when establishing funding sources.

TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

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

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- ◆ Some sponsors have been recruited for funding of the maps (REI, Michigan Cat., The City of Wixom and Paint Creek).
- ◆ Clinton River maps were brought for distribution. Marge thanked the Clinton River Trail for sharing their maps.
- ◆ The following items were made available: SR2S pamphlets, pedestrian fatality report, MRPA position posting, and application for Legislative Day table.
- ◆ In the month of July, Oakland County Employees will meet at 12:00 and 1:00 to walk the Waterford Oaks trails. This is part of Marge Gatliff's fitness and health collaboration with the Oakland County Health Department.
- ◆ Merle Richmond has been nominated as Oakland County Parks and Recreation volunteer of the month for her efforts on behalf of the Oakland County Equestrians.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Todd Scott's reported that congressional efforts to open state parklands to anyone 60-years old and older, with a disability, enabling them to ride their ATVs in the parks has been abandoned. The effort was to afford hunting opportunities to seniors.

The Senate passed its version of H.R. 3, however, there is little more than a week remaining before the May 31 extension expires.

Efforts are being made to up-date Michigan's Uniform Vehicle Code to help provide safer biking on the road.

MAP FUNDING UPDATE

There has been an order of the OTAC maps submitted for bidding. Only one small change was included on this printing. This will be a "stop gap" printing to make do until the revised map is ready for printing.

An updated map with logo opportunities for sponsors will be ready for printing in mid summer. Submit any changes in your trail to Kristen Wilfang as soon as you can for the final revision.

Brian Blaesing unsuccessfully asked Levy Sand and Gravel supply if they would sponsor the OTAC map. He suggested that perhaps Ajax and Cadillac suppliers might be interested as suppliers to county government and trails to sponsor the OTAC map.

MICHIGANDER UPDATE - BARRY CULHAM, RAILS TO TRAILS

Barry gave an update on the Michigander event, displaying the proposed route for review. He ask that any new additions to trails be submitted to him before their final maps are printed. Any suggestions for alternate routes, construction to be encountered, or water stops should be submitted to Barry as soon as possible. The map book will be printed the first part of July.

There are 400 participants registered for the trip. It is expected that there will be 600-700 registered for the event. One-day registrations are available for \$15.

The communities being crossed will be notified of the time/date/location of the event.

It has been calculated that there are 1,483 miles of biking trails in Michigan, making Michigan the #1 state for number of miles of trails available.

Fred Meijer has sponsored the purchase of a 60-mile trail through three counties. Only 75% of the donated 1.5 million can be used to purchase the trail.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS

- Lois Golden reported on the progress of the Adams Road/ M-59 interchange. A development of the area has been approved with a Wal-Mart being constructed. Lois is working to obtain sensitive treatment for the trail along the edge of the development area and hopes to do a presentation to look for funding assistance from the developer.

Oakland County Planning and Economic Development will be hosting a heritage seminar on "Finance Opportunities" with Sam Washington doing the presentation on September 21 at Indian Springs new Environmental Discovery Center. Contact Julie Skene to register.

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- This is an employment opportunity available with the Oakland County Conservation District. Contact the district for application information.
- A master plan is being developed for creating a green infrastructure. Oakland County Planning and Economic Development is bringing the different communities together to make this effort. OTAC is being used as a model. They are compiling a presentation on how to build green infrastructure and would like to make a presentation to OTAC.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 22, 2005** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

Marge Gatliff, Oakland County Parks and Recreation