

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
May 26, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Navarre at 9:12 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, Linda Bloch, Dan Duncan, Merle Richmond, Tom Woiwode, Amy Murray, Kirsten Myers, Dot Lalone, Mike Searing, Mat Gaberty, Dan Navarre, Sharon Greene

MINUTES:

Moved by Dan Duncan, supported by Amy Murray, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2004 meeting, as amended.

ADDITIONS TO MINUTES:

Dan Navarre added one item to the agenda as follows: Mr. Tom Woiwode, Director of the GreenWays Initiative Foundation, to participate in a discussion regarding the future role of the GreenWays Initiative Foundation in Oakland County.

TRAILS NETWORK UPDATE:

Paint Creek Trail: Kristen Myers reported that:

- Some flooding had been experienced by the Paint Creek Trail.
- Two bike patrol officers (one full-time and one-part time) have been engaged for patrolling the Paint Creek Trail.
- On National Trails Day, June 12, Paint Creek Trail will have an event from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polly Ann Trail: Amy Murray reported that they have been working with multi-jurisdictions developing new ideas to implement successfully developing connections of their trails.

The Clinton River Trail: no representative present.

West Bloomfield Trail: The heron rookery is their big attraction this year. They have even had traffic from outside Michigan with interest in this feature.

Dan Navarre also noted that trail groups need to be vigilant in guarding against encroachments on their trail. The West Bloomfield Trail is currently involved in a lawsuit dealing with these issues. When addressing this type of an issue he remarked that it is important to document all correspondence and consider possibly fencing the trail to discourage encroachments.

Lakes Community Trail: no representative present.

Huron Valley Trail: no representative present.

Headwaters Trail: The Headwaters Trail requested OTAC draft letters of support for grant applications to the GreenWays Initiatives of Southeastern Michigan. One is a predevelopment grant being submitted by Rose Township for a bike/hike connection

pathway and the other is being submitted by the Township of Holly for three trail segments with a common trail head in Water Works Park in the Village of Holly.

It was moved by Amy Murray and seconded by Larry Falardeau that Marge Gatliff draft two letters of support from OTAC for these grant applications. The motion was carried on voice vote.

Dot Lalone gave a brief update on the progress of the Headwaters Trail negotiations with the Poulte Development Group.

MMBA/Woodward Corridor: no representative present.

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The Master Plan subcommittee will meet following the OTAC meeting.

TRAILS NETWORK COORDINATOR UPDATE

- Michigan Trails and Greenways recapped - Reported on Legislative Day in Lansing
- June is National Trails and Greenways Month
- Southeastern Michigan Greenways Forum recap—information binders are available, contact the SEMG.
- "Walk Michigan-Walk Oakland" program- begins June 1- August 1. Contact Marge for registration forms and flyers
- Multi Jurisdictional Trail is now "Lakes Community Trail"
- Trails County Summit - Thursday, September 9, 2004
- National Trails Day event - Saturday, June 5, 2004
- Pedometers have arrived. Each trail is allowed 25 for a special event.
- Brochure update given by Marge, the brochure is almost complete
- Equestrian brochure is in progress
- Bike brochure information was received
- June 23, Downriver Greenways Presentation at the next meeting
- Trail Network name and logo is being revised
- MRPA trails committee update—Marge reported that the committee should be official by September
- Michigan State University study of Paint Creek Trail confirmed

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Michigan National Trust Fund Board is planning a retreat on June 2 from 6:30-10:00 p.m. (rooms 204 – 205 at the Lansing Center in Lansing. The first day of this retreat is to re-evaluate how they score grants and to offer the public an opportunity to voice their questions and comments. There will be no presentation. It will be conducted as a public hearing.

The second day, a number of major topics will be addressed. One of the issues being addressed at the retreat is a request for re-evaluation of the master plan requirements for grant eligibility. It will be suggested that a general master plan (non-specific) would allow for

more timely and successful grant opportunities. The second day will also contain a formal presentation(s). Further information is available at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

TOM WOIWODE, DIRECTOR, GREEN WAYS INITIATIVE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The GreenWays Foundation provides money for community opportunities through their granting process. This effort helps generate funds and support for projects. Due to the time required to complete projects, the foundation will be active until 2006.

Mr. Woiwode received questions and comments regarding funding a project development.

He emphasized that when soliciting funds, remember:

- ◆ You must ask for the contributions
- ◆ Summer isn't a good time to solicit
- ◆ Fall is the best time, due to budgeting for the next year
- ◆ Know the budget of your potential sponsor
- ◆ Clearly state the criterion of the donations
- ◆ Address the needs of the sponsor, not your needs
- ◆ Contributors donate because they believe in the person, the cause, and/or how funds will be spent.
- ◆ Be sure to thank the contributor
- ◆ If a physical presentation of thanks is to be offered, it would be best if funded by a donated

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS

– Merle Richmond gave an equestrian up-date on the Oakland County Equestrians. She reported that the inventory of horses in Holly Township continues and that the Equestrians will be giving a presentation to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on July 15.

– Larry Falardeau reported that he was doing a presentation on planning for the White Lake Recreation and Planning Departments on Wednesday.

– Dan Navarre requested that a change in the by-laws be made at the next meeting to provide a vehicle to add voting members to OTAC as new trail groups are developed in Oakland County. (i.e. Lakes Community Trail) Each new group would be considered for membership on a case by case basis and voted on by the general membership. Merle Richmond suggested that trail groups that link to Oakland County trails and are not made voting members be granted ad hoc membership.

The meeting adjourned 11:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 23, 2004** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

SJB, Oakland County Parks and Recreation