

OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
June 19, 2003

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

PRESENT:

Chairman Christopher Doozan, Vice Chairman Dan Navarre, Mike Hartner, Todd Kauffman, Ralph Richard, Joseph Figa, Marge Gatliff, Ed Coe, Tod Gazetti, Larry Falardeau, Kristen Myers, Kristen Wiltfang, Dot Lalone, Brian Blaesing, Amber Fox, Linda Bloch

MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Navarre, supported by Mr. Kauffman to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2003 as submitted.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

TRAILS NETWORK COORDINATOR INTRODUCTION:

Oakland County Parks Chief of Design and Development Joe Figa introduced Margaret Gatliff, the new Trails Network Coordinator for the county. Marge was former parks director for Harrison Township.

Marge expressed her anticipation of meeting with all the members of the council and in learning about all the trail systems in the county.

Members of the Oakland County Trails Advisory Council introduced themselves to Marge, noting their affiliation to the council and the resources they bring to it.

COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Council members concurred that the master plan is still a top priority. Marge has already begun work on it; she will be working with businesses/corporations for funding opportunities, plus Planning and Economic Development for their mapping resources.

A sub-committee was formed to assist Marge in looking at what has already been done, determine what it will contain, and outline that information. Ed Coe, Larry Falardeau, Joe Figa, Kristen Myers, and Chris Doozan volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

Larry Falardeau suggested the concept plan be placed on the agenda for review at the next OTAC meeting.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY ACTIVITIES:

Members reviewed activities held throughout their trails systems on National Trails Day.

Names were drawn from all the entries of the day's activities; the eight winners will be sent a joint HCMA/OCPR pass.

Marge noted that National Trails Day is also National Fishing Day; suggested that consideration be made to tie the two events together for promotional purposes next year.

Possible events for the fall were discussed, including a fall county-wide color tour and Walk Your Child to School Day in October. Additional ideas will be discussed at a future meeting.

A trail summit with OTAC members and trail groups from Macomb County was proposed, providing the opportunity to work cooperatively toward similar goals and funding. After discussion, Marge was directed to work with Mike Hartner to coordinate an informal gathering this fall.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

---In response to previous discussions with Merle Richmond on road rights-of-way for horses and conflicts with traffic, Amber Fox (on behalf of Merle Richmond) provided copies of excerpts of the Michigan Vehicle Code, Act 300 of 1949, highlighting the definition of "traffic" and the rights of riding animals along roadways.

---Dan Navarre has been invited to serve on a task force for the Department of Natural Resources Grants Division to review granting procedures and processes. Dan will be representing townships in this effort, Dan Martinez (Taylor) will be serving on behalf of cities, and Bob Moore (Ingham) will be serving on behalf of counties.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ralph Richard noted that, on a recent tour of the Vancouver/Victoria Parks Districts, their trails network is identified by one name, with each individual trail retaining its own name. This provides a unique opportunity for promoting their trails systems and providing additional funding for their signage.

Ralph Richard inquired about the expected time frame for the trails to be connected across the county, in order to consider a "cross county" trail event.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2003, in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Karen Kohn CPS/CAP