

OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
July 17, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 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, Joseph Figa, Marge Gatliff, Ed Coe, Larry Falardeau, Kristen Bennett, Kristen Wiltfang, Dot Lalone, Brian Blaesing, Linda Bloch, Todd Scott, Kathy Fraser, Tiffany Ashbrook, Dan Stencil, Robert Donohoe

MINUTES:

Moved, supported, and carried to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2003 as submitted.

MASTER PLAN PROGRESS REPORT:

The master plan subcommittee will begin meeting regularly directly after OTAC meetings to review issues for the trail network master plan. Chairman Doozan reviewed the outline, which included the purpose, history, social/physical characteristics of the county affecting the trails, identification of target populations, plus an inventory of existing facilities and desired trails systems; it will also include recommendations for design treatments and funding opportunities.

Representatives of each trail system were requested to complete a synopsis of their system as it is today, along with its future vision, and return it to Oakland County Parks staff as soon as possible. This information will be used in the master plan subcommittee's planning.

Parks staff will also include a compilation of tasks with which the Council can assist.

Brief updates were reported on the Coe Railroad plus the Orchard Lake Road Corridor, which runs from I-696 to Telegraph Road and contains six communities. The Orchard Lake Road Corridor Study Group would like to share the results of their study with us because there are four trail crossings in the corridor and each is proposed to be treated in a different manner. A presentation by Bret Rasegan of Oakland County Planning and Economic Development will be scheduled for the August 13 meeting.

MAIN STREET, OAKLAND COUNTY PROGRAM:

Bob Donohoe, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development, presented information on the Main Street Program of Oakland County, including the eight communities who are currently participating, the program's purpose, plus its benefits and goal of maximizing a district's "sense of place." Mr. Donohoe noted their four-point approach of organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring; reviewed their two-year track record of successes; and reported on workshops being offered. Trail networks would be included as one aspect of design.

JOINT MEETING WITH MACOMB COUNTY:

The proposed trail summit with OTAC members and trail groups from Macomb County has been scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 4 at Bloomer State Park. Mike Hartner will contact Mark Brochu from St. Clair County and Amy Murray will contact interested persons from Lapeer County to also participate in the event. Marge Gatliff will invite representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation plus prepare a flyer on the event.

FALL PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY:

Marge Gatliff requested that anyone with ideas for a special promotional event in early October that could be tied into other trail activities to please contact her with information. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Clinton River Watershed bridge was suggested as a possible tie-in. Council members were also asked to lend a hand to coordinate this event.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

---Todd Scott noted that the House Appropriations Subcommittee is proposing a total elimination of bike funding for the 2004 fiscal year; all funding is being transferred to highway construction. Council members were asked to call and/or fax letters to Congressman Knollenberg's office before July 21. Members were also urged to ask their local representatives to contact Congressman Knollenberg's office.

---Dan Navarre reported that the interior appropriations bill was taken up in the House yesterday. This important legislation will affect both the UPAR and Land and Water Conservation funding, the only grant funding for the state.

---The Michigan Land Use Leadership Council is currently formulating its recommendations, prominently featuring Michigan trails. For those interested, you can see these recommendations on their website: [www.michiganlanduse.org](http://www.michiganlanduse.org)

OTHER BUSINESS:

---Marge Gatliff reported that a trails website will be developed; she distributed a website task list for council members' review and recommendations for information and links to be included. Member input should be returned to her as soon as possible.

Todd Scott offered to lend his assistance to Marge on this subcommittee; other interested members should contact Marge.

---Marge will be attending a Greenways Initiative Workshop of August 27 at U of M, Dearborn; any council members also interested in attending can contact Marge for information.

---Todd Scott briefly reported on communities' growing awareness of the importance of downtowns, trails, and bikeway facilities to the lifestyles of the young, educated populace.

---Tiffany Ashbrook distributed a report from the Oakland Equestrian Coalition, noting Highland Township recently settled a lawsuit with a developer which will begin an equestrian trail conservancy.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2003, in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Karen Kohn CPS/CAP