

**OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
July 27, 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, Robert Golda, Lois Golden, Todd Scott, Larry Falardeau, Brian Blaesing, Merle Richmond, Dan Stencil, Kristen Myers, Triscia Pilchowski, Jim Keglovitz, Jessica Simons, Larry Lockwood, Sharon Green, Bruce Austin, Linda Bloch, Chris Doozan, Deanna Magee, Tom Newcombe

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of June 22, 2005 should read as follows:

4. Trail Network Update

....The **Headwaters Trail**..... The trails Kodak Grant application, through the National Parks Services, has been *submitted*.

Moved by Todd Scott, supported by Bruce Austin, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2005 meeting as corrected. The motion passed on voice vote.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Addition to Item 6: Request for a letter of support from the Township of Oxford  
Before Item 4: The Master Plan Map - Threats and Opportunities for Greenways and Trails.

The motion to accept the additions passed on voice vote.

**MASTER PLAN MAP WITH POTENTIAL THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREENWAYS AND TRAILS**

Larry Falardeau presented the OTAC Master Plan Map with the potential threats and opportunities for greenways and trails noted. He requested the cost summaries for the various segments of OTAC trails to be submitted. This map will be used as a summary of active threats and opportunities for greenways (water resources, green infrastructure, natural areas) and trails. Additions to the posted map were requested. OC Planning will submit the draft to MDOT in August. Be sure to submit any new additions to Larry Falardeau by the next OTAC meeting, August 24.

**TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:**

– **Paint Creek Trail** - The Paint Creek MNRTF project is in progress. The target date for completion is September 30, 2005. Kristen Myers thanked Oakland County Parks and Recreation for their assistance in the administration of this grant.

**Polly Ann Trail** -The trails new construction project is due to begin by August 11, with the bridge being done in November and completion by December 30, 2005.

Phase II of the Polly Ann trails project will be the Orion/Oxford linking and updating of the Polly Ann Trail Master Plan.

- **Clinton River Trail** - The trails new bridge is officially open and the road crossings are 90% complete.
- **West Bloomfield Trail** - The major portion of the trail in Sylvan Village has the limestone base installed.
- **Lakes Community Trail** - The Wolverine bike path around the lake is waiting for permits to proceed.
- The **Huron Valley Trail** - Engineering for the reconstruction of the trail through Lyon Community Park and the new road crossings are in progress.
- **Headwaters Trail** - The August 29, 2005, Inaugural Ride the Rose and Cruise the Connector event, sponsored by the Headwaters Trail and Oakland County Parks and Recreation, was noted and a brochure passed.
- **Woodward Corridor** Trail - Todd Scott reported that, due to some traffic issues, in the city of Ferndale, the bike lane has been shortened by one block. A video showing how to use the bike lane has been made. Larry Falardeau requested a copy for Oakland County Planning. The city of Ferndale has looked into adding more bike lanes, but there aren't many opportunities on existing streets. Instead, the city will install signage to suggest the best routes via the roads to various sites.

### **EMERALD ASH BORER PRESENTATION BY JESSICA SIMONS**

Jessica Simons gave an overview of the Emerald Ash Borer problem and the concerns in Michigan reviewing the options open to southeast Michigan residents.

The wood of the infected tree is still good for use if it is utilized in the first few weeks after the tree is cut. The trees can be used for the production of energy, lumber, and crafts. Large stands can be made available to businesses such as the Flat Rock Mill, LaMont Tree service and others.

Urban wood utilization could meet 25/30% of the local hardwood needs in the US.

For more information contact [www.semircd.org/ash](http://www.semircd.org/ash).

### **SEVEN LAKES AND HEADWATERS TRAIL REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Kristen Bennett and Sue Julian requested a letter of support for their application to the DNR for funding for their trail connection. Marge contacted members via e-mail for approval to issue the letter.

The letter was sent on July 11.

### **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF ORION**

Orion Township is requesting a letter of support for the extension of their safety pathway.

It was moved by Christopher Doozan and seconded by Dan Stencil to send a letter of support form OTAC supporting their project. The motion was passed on voice vote.

### **TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT**

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

- ◆ OTAC trail maps currently available have not been funded with the sponsor donations. The next printing will include the logo of sponsors and be funded by the donations.
- ◆ The Michigander event was a huge success as was the dedication of the Clinton River Trail Bridge.
- ◆ Marge Gatliff reminded members to turn in their Walk Michigan Walk Oakland entries. The last day is August 1.
- ◆ Walks will continue at the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building each Friday at noon.
- ◆ Trail Summit invitations were made available on the entry table and a reminder given that there will be no OTAC meeting in September.
- ◆ Paint Creek Trail representative Kristen Myers thanked Oakland County Parks and Recreation for their assistance with their MNRTF grant project.
- ◆ Fall events need to be e-mailed to Marge if they are to be included in the Oakland County Parks and Recreation calendar of events.
- ◆ Kristen Wiltfang of Oakland County Planning requested information for the trail poster and Master Plan Map she is developing and gave a reminder about the annual Heritage Conference at Indian Springs.

### **MARKETING UPDATE**

At the July marketing committee meeting, the members addressed developing a list of:

1. priorities
2. marketing mistakes
3. benefits for potential business sponsors

OTAC has accumulated \$3,500 of the \$6,000 required for the next printing of the OTAC map. OTAC may also need funding for their slide show and master plan.

Those who donate \$500 or more will be termed "Trail Blazers," \$300 - \$499 "Path Finders," and \$200 - \$299, "Trekksers."

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- Nancy Krupiarz e-mailed Marge Gatliff with notification of a new extension of the TEA-21 funds.

### **OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS**

- Todd Scott gave a brief update on the Michigan State Park status in the metropolitan areas. He is working on a committee to address some of the funding issues and possible resolutions.

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2005** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

*Marge Gatliff, Oakland County Parks and Recreation*