

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
July 28, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chair Kristen Myers at 9:07 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

PRESENT:

Marge Gatliff, Kristen Wiltfang, Larry Falardeau, Dan Duncan, Dot Lalone, Chris Doozan, Deanna Magee, Todd Scott, Lois Golden, Mike Hartner, Sharon Greene, Kristen Myers, Hioletta Bilan, Donna Zalewski, Anthony Casasanta, Sue Julian, Nancy Krupiarz, Aaron Alspaugh, Brian Blaesing, Dan Stencil, Joe Figa, Roger Busch, Barbara Mention, Donna Zalewski, Oakland County Sheriff's Dept. Representative.

MINUTES:

Moved by Dan Duncan, supported by Dot Lalone, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2004 meeting as submitted. The motion passed on voice vote.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- None

ITC TRANSMISSION COMPANY PRESENTATION

Donna Zalewski of the International Transmission Company (ITC) was introduced by Kristen Myers. Ms Zalewski gave a synopsis of the history of ITC (a privately owned and operated company) and its 2003 acquisition of the energy lines previously owned by DTE. They currently have an operation that is manned 24 hrs, 7 days a week. They service more than 7,600 square miles in southeastern Michigan, comprising all or part of 12 counties. ITC owns corridors in 348 communities and employ over 400 different contractors to do their field maintenance.

Barbara Mention, Real Estate Associate for ITC, gave a presentation on the pedestrian walkway and bike path development procedures currently in place. Their corporate policy is intended to encourage municipal developments of their corridors (rights-of-way) for bicycle and pedestrian paths. ITC welcomes requests for these developments.

When a request is placed, the engineer first reviews it to be sure it complies with their safety clearance code. If there is no objection the paperwork is processed and a public relations kit (press kit) is given those requesting authorization. There is a one time \$1,000 fee. If additional information is needed, Ms. Mention can be contacted at bmention@itctransco.com or by telephone at 248.374.7257.

Flyers were made available with additional information on ITC and their path policies.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- Paint Creek Trail: The resurfacing of the trail is projected to be done in the fall of 2004. The aggregate selection will be made in August and the project for bid. Kristen offered to supply Marge Gatliff with the specifications for the materials they select.

It was proposed that Marge Gatliff maintain a data file on path surfaces and the associated standards and options available. A professional on these standards could be scheduled for a future agenda item. Also, the topic of "shared equipment" was another potential agenda item for a future meeting.

- Clinton River Rail-Trail: Mike Hartner reported that the linking of the trail with Rochester and Pontiac is progressing.
- Polly Ann Trail: Lois Golden is the new Polly Ann Manager. Development of the connections to the Paint Creek Trail is due to start shortly. The bridge over M24 in Oxford is currently a local concern due to esthetics and drainage issues.

Due to the change in management, the August 21, 2004, "Rural Pearl of a Ride" has been cancelled for this year.

- The Clinton River Trail: Rochester has started new resurfacing on their portion of the path. The Pontiac western mile has been resurfaced and the dedication will be scheduled soon. The plans for their bridge and the intersection crossings are being finalized. A goal is to bring the trail through downtown Pontiac. Auburn Hills used the grindings from their old concrete and pavers on the path between Adams and Opdyke. This process produced a quality path and saved on material disposal as well as product costs.
- West Bloomfield Trail: No representative was present.
- Lakes Community Trail: There were no new developments to report.
- Huron Valley Trail: The Huron Valley Trail is in line to receive a grant to assist in the cost of engineering for their trail development. They are going to use the ASHTO standards for path paving which calls for a width of 10 feet. When an agreement is made with a developer for the inclusion of a path, they are requiring the ASHTO standard be used. It was noted, however, that the Road Commission for Oakland County has had some objections to this width and has preferred an 8-foot path.
- Headwaters Trail: Dot Lalone reported that their subcommittee is meeting to preparing for the development of their path. She requested that a presentation of signage be considered as a future agenda item. Nancy Krupiarz indicated that at the next "Greenways Initiative" in October of this year there will be a forum on signage.
- MMBA/Woodward Corridor: Had no representative present. Marge Gatliff has sent a letter to Tom Barwin to requesting attendance by a representative of this trail.

CHANGE IN BY LAWS

Moved by Lois Golden and seconded by Dot LaLone to accept the **change of the name of the West Bloomfield/Multi-Jurisdictional Trail to the West Bloomfield Trail** and to **add the Lakes Community Trail** as a voting member. Article III, B, Section 3, shall now read as follows:

Membership, Officers. The voting members of the Council shall be composed of representatives of the following organizations: Paint Creek Trail, Polly Ann Trail, Clinton River Trail, West Bloomfield Trail, Lakes Community Trail, Huron Valley Trail, Headwaters Trail, Woodward Corridor Trail, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development, Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Oakland County Drain Commission, Oakland County Parks and Recreation, Road Commission for Oakland County, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Transportation, Business Community. The addition or removal of voting members shall require an amendment to the Bylaws.

The motion passed on voice vote.

The motion to **change the bylaws and move the regular OTAC meeting to 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month** was approved and carried on voice vote. Article III, B, Section 3, shall now read as follows:

Meetings. Council meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

- It was suggested that the Bylaws be reviewed annually to consider changes and/or additions.

TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

- "The "Walk Michigan-Walk Oakland" registrations are due on Monday, August 1st.
- On October 23, 2004, a Halloween Fun Run will be held at Lyon Oaks Golf Course. The golf course cart path will be used for the run. Preschool aged children will be allowed to ride their bikes.
- Thursday, September 9, 2004 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. will be the Oakland County Trails Summit. Marge E-mailed the membership the flyer for this event. Please notify her if you are able to attend.
- Addison Oaks County Park is dedicating their newly paved trail on Saturday, August 28th.
- Send all information for the trail and bike brochures/maps to Marge Gatliff/Melissa Wagner at Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

- The MRPA trails committee is due to be approved in August as a voting member of the MRPA organization.
- The Paint Creek Trail is still looking for volunteers to assist with the MSU study. Contact Marge if you are able to help.
- A representative of the Governor's Council/Department of Community Health is giving a presentation at the August OTAC meeting.
- Fall and winter programs must be submitted to Marge for inclusion in the Oakland County Parks and Recreation (OCPR) calendar.
- Within the next few months, the Community Connection Initiative, a sub-group at Oakland County for community groups, will meet to share resources. This will be in conjunction with the Northwest Recreation Association, MRPA and OCPR.
- An adopt a trail program is being established for the trails in Oakland County Parks.
- In an effort to boost trail usage, OCPR hopes to establish collaborations and programs with Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, the Boys/Girls Club, etc.
- The updated member list was made available at the meeting. Contact Marge to have one E-mailed if you didn't pick one up.
- On Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m., the National Kidney Foundation will be having an event at Lyon Oaks County Park. They are looking for bike riders to participate.
- The Macomb Orchard Trail dedication of the newly paved 7-miles of trail was a great event and was well attended.
- On February 2-6, 2005, a presentation will be presented at the MRPA conference on trails in Traverse City.

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The Master Plan subcommittee will meet following the OTAC meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In the Michigan senate is a bill, package 863, which contains an item on recycling. It is requesting that trail maintenance volunteers/crews submit reports that determine the quantity and quality of trash picked up. This is for statewide information, however, does not reflect the true nature of the volunteer services. A copy of the bill will be sent to Marge Gatliff and she will draft a letter expressing how trails feel about this legislation. Copies can be E-mailed to individuals to use to inform legislators of trail concerns.

Nancy Krupiarz reported that there is a joint resolution in the house to take funds now under HDRC and protect them from other use. The Trailways fund was not included in this resolution. She has spoken with the speaker of the house and her senator expressing her desire to have the trailways fund included. There is no money in the fund at this time, but futures monies could be protected, when donated, if trailways were included. She suggested that members contact their senator to request Trailways be included

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS

- A motion to make an addition to the OTAC Logo was brought to the floor.

Moved by Lois Golden and seconded by Mike Hartner that a wheel chair be added in the roots of the OTAC Logo and that a clarification be added in the "Trail Benefits" portion of the OTAC map brochure, stating that OTAC is working toward developing wheel chair compliant paths.

The motion passed on voice vote.

- Todd Scott reported that it was determined that there was not enough width on Woodward Avenue to allow a non-motorized/pedestrian trail.
- Sharon Greene gave an equestrian up-date on the Oakland County Equestrians. She reported that the Oakland County equestrian trail map is complete and available. All 1000 of the flyers have been distributed.
- Kristen Wiltfang is working on a map of the Pontiac portion of the Clinton River Trail.

- Nancy Krupiarz asked for volunteers to man a booth at the Michigan State Fair. Contact Nancy if you can assist her.
- Dan Stencil asked for feed back regarding the use of the Oakland County Sheriff's Deputies at trail events, etc. Mike Hartner remarked that the Clinton River Rail-Trail had a great experience on July 4 with over 90 officers assisting at their event. Chris Doozan recommended that Marge send a letter on behalf of OTAC to Sgt. Searing at Parks and Recreation, with a cc to the Sheriff's Department, expressing OTAC's thanks and appreciation of the deputies' services.

Kristen Myers said the deputies were also a definite asset to Paint Creek Trail events.

- Todd Scott reported that the Detroit Synergy Group is having coffee talks regarding use of fields in the city of Detroit with MDOT. If anyone is interested, contact Todd for times, dates, and places.
- Nancy Krupiarz reported that the "Michigander" ride from Big Rapids to the Mackinaw Trail was a success with 1100 riders taking part. Next year the event will start at the Airline Trail and possibly travel through the Paint Creek Trail. She is now looking for help and suggestions for the planning of this event as all trails do not link at this time.
- A Bikeway event on August 14, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Livonia, 6 Mile and Sibley Road is planned. This is to raise the visibility of the path networks and the I-275 loop. It is an opportunity for the community to partner with MDOT for the maintenance of trails.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 25**, in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building. **There will be no September OTAC Meeting** due to the September County Summit.

sjb, Oakland County Parks and Recreation