

OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
August 13, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Chris Doozan 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, Joseph Figa, Marge Gatliff, Kristen Wiltfang, Dot Lalone, Brian Blaesing, Linda Bloch, Todd Scott, Dan Stencil, Merle Richmond, Kristen Myers, Nancy Krupiarz, Madhu Oberoi, Amy Murray, Bret Rasegan, Gino Santia

MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Blaesing, supported by Mr. Hartner to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2003 meeting, as written.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

MASTER PLAN PROGRESS REPORT:

Marge Gatliff updated the Council on the progress of the master plan process, noting the status of the subcommittee meetings, plus requesting assistance from the trail representatives in completing the trails inventory surveys.

ORCHARD LAKE ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY GROUP REPORT:

Bret Rasegan and Gino Santia presented the Orchard Lake Road Corridor Study, which is a foundation for a plan and coordinated design strategy linking the communities of Bloomfield Township, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village, and Farmington Hills.

The 15-month planning process culminated in the following goals:

- Create, communicate and implement a shared vision of the corridor.
- Enhance the overall appearance and character of the Orchard Lake Road Corridor. Develop and emphasize districts that build on existing character.
- Improve a vehicular flow and circulation through the Orchard Lake Road Corridor.
- Create a walkable environment along Orchard Lake Road that is safe, convenient and accessible.

A concept was developed that divided the corridor into five districts: North Lakes Center, Scenic Lakes, Mid Lakes Center, Cultural, and South Orchard. Recommended areas of focus for each district were reviewed, along with "streetscape" elements, ie boulevards, gateways, roundabouts, street lighting, signage, and landscaping, and will be implemented at both the corridor-wide and local jurisdictional levels.

Concluding, Mr. Santia requested the Council promote awareness of the study among the respective organizations, plus consider out the recommendations of this study can support our efforts in the planning, development, and maintenance of a complete, non-motorized, countywide trail network for the citizens of Oakland County.

JOINT COUNTY TRAILS SUMMIT:

Marge Gatliff reported on the status of the joint county trails "summit" being hosted by Rochester Hills Parks and Oakland County Parks and Recreation. The event will be held at Bloomer State Park on Thursday, September 4 from noon to 3 p.m. and the scope of the event has been expanded to include Lapeer, Macomb, St. Clair, Oakland, Genesee, Livingston, and Wayne Counties, plus other interested agencies, including MDOT, AMI, SEMCOG, and Greenways Initiative.

FALL PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY:

Marge Gatliff reported that the current plan to tie the Auburn Hills MDOT bridge dedication in with the Walk Your Students to School Day on Wednesday, October 8 may not be feasible, as the bridge may not be completed by that date. An alternative may be the Fall Color Car Classic being held at Independence Oaks County Park on Sunday, October 5. Please contact Marge Gatliff if you have any other suggestions.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

The vote on the 2004 appropriations for the Transportation Enhancement Act is the first week of September. Council members were urged to contact all congressmen in the county; plus contact Congressman Knollenberg, ask their local representatives to contact him, or attend his open house on August 20 to reinforce the importance of having the non-motorized funding reinstated in the Act. Marge was also directed to write a letter to all congressmen on behalf of the OTAC.

WEBSITE:

Marge is working with the Oakland County Parks Public Communications Office staff and staff at Oakland County Planning and Economic Development to develop a brochure and a website to promote the Council and the trail network system. The website will be linked from the county park website and will include information on the individual trail systems. Marge requested representatives provide her with photos and other pertinent information on their trails system that they would like posted on the site.

OTHER BUSINESS:

---Merle Richmond updated the Council on the Equestrian Coalition's activities, including the equine census getting underway, plus a presentation made to Rose Township on the Coalition. Merle also requested the representatives of the Council contact her to have this same presentation given to their respective groups.

---Information was shared on the North American Scenic and Historic Trails Convention and Mid America Trails & Greenways Conferences.

---Marge was contacted by Giffels-Webster Engineers, consultants working with the city of Detroit on a non-motorized path. The firm has requested a copy of the Council's mailing list; the Council agreed to have the list made available to them for this purpose. The Council also requested the consultants be invited to attend the joint county trails summit on September 4.

---Dan Navarre reported on a recent accident on the West Bloomfield Multi-Jurisdictional Trails between an elderly walker and a bicyclist. The Council discussed the importance of multi-use trails, their guidelines, plus possibly promoting a "share the trails" event. Nancy Krupiarz has information from Colorado that she will forward to Marge Gatliff. The Council concurred to have safety on the trails and trail use etiquette placed on the September 10 meeting agenda. Members were asked to bring information, resources, guidelines, etc.

---Additional information on recent correspondence, newspaper/magazine articles, and events was provided to the members.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2003, in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Karen Kohn CPS/CAP