

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (OTAC)
August 24, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Trail Network Coordinator Marge Gatliff at 9:07 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building and conducted by co-chair Lois Golden. Introductions included Jennifer Fredrick who will be representing Highland Township at future OTAC meetings.

PRESENT:

Marge Gatliff, Lois Golden, Todd Scott, Larry Falardeau, Brian Blaesing, Merle Richmond, Triscia Pilchowski, Sharon Green, Bruce Austin, Linda Bloch, Tom Newcombe, Susie Sulla, Rich Sulla, Karen Tauriainen, Amy Ploot, Jennifer Frederick, Sue Julian, Linda Bloch, Clint Spevak, Joe Figa.

MINUTES:

Moved by Todd Scott, supported by Bruce Austin, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2005 meeting. The motion passed on voice vote.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- **Paint Creek Trail** - Paint Creek has expressed a need for volunteers to construct a lookout at Foley Pond. Please respond to Marge Gatliff, Lois Golden, or Kristen Myers if you can offer any assistance.
- **Polly Ann Trail** -The trail is sponsoring a Groundbreaking Ceremony on Friday, August 26 at Indianwood Road and the Polly Ann Trail in Orion Township.
- **Clinton River Trail** - The trail's projects have proceeded on schedule, except for a problem with the removal of a single utility pole. Hopefully this will soon be resolved.
- **Headwaters Trail** - Work at Waterworks Park continues. The scheduled horse-riding event is this month's big event.
- **Woodward Corridor Trail** - Todd Scott reported that the city of Ferndale has produced a video to provide a history of and introduction to trail/bike lane usage. Ferndale also will produce a video demonstrating how to safely use a bike lane. These videos will be shown on local broadcasts and made available to OTAC. Larry Falardeau suggested that after these videos are both developed, perhaps a presentation could be offered to OTAC for a future meeting.

TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

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

- A reminder to RSVP by September 2 for the Trails Summit event on September 8. There will be three panels of speakers making presentations.
- Marge is looking for walkers to participate in the Metro Detroit Heart Walk on Saturday, September 17, in Southfield. Walkers will be meeting at the Southfield municipal complex.
- There will be a Mutt March October 1 at Orion Oaks Dog Park, hosted by the Humane Society and OCPD.
- MRPA Trails "Connecting Michigan" will be offering a one-day seminar on October 27. Marge will update OTAC as details are finalized.

OAK ROUTE SIGNAGE

Marge Gatliff proposed establishing a subcommittee to develop sign standards for OTAC trails with a representative from each participating OTAC trail.

Larry Falardeau suggested that the first step could be for each trail to send/e-mail their trail signage standards to Oakland County Planning to his attention. He and Kirsten Wiltfang will explore the options offered and make a presentation to OTAC at a future meeting.

Lois Golden offered to e-mail her current sign standards.

The following trail groups are requested to email Larry Falardeau their signage logos that were not present at the meeting. Paint Creek, West Bloomfield, Lakes Community and Huron Valley trails. When established, the OTAC standards will not be to replace individual trail logos, etc., but to provide

a method of unifying terms and identifying the trail as part of the Oak Routes linked county trail network.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION HIGHLAND ACQUISITION

Oakland County Parks and Recreation requested a letter of support for the proposed Highland Acquisition being submitted to the Department of Natural Resources for funding assistance.

Todd Scott moved that a letter be drafted supporting this acquisition and grant application.

The motion was supported by Larry Falardeau and passed on voice vote.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Larry Falardeau updated OTAC on the development of an incentive program to expand philanthropy. The Foundation will match \$1 for each \$2 comminutes contribute up to \$150,000. This is seen as an offer of seed money for grants as well as a partnership opportunity with the business community.

The tracking information of current and past projects are needed to demonstrate the need for funding. Please report to Larry F any grant opportunities you lost or were unable to get due to match funding. Documentation of the local communities and/or trails projects/needs is a must.

It is hoped that a green infrastructure can be secured by using this foundation.

MDOT is currently requesting information on critical road crossings and/or corridors that are existing or planned. Please send your information to Larry F so he can supply the data to MDOT.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MILFORD TOWNSHIP TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Milford Township is requesting a letter of support for their application for funding of their trail extension.

Larry Falardeau moved that a letter be drafted supporting this project and grant application.

The motion was supported by Dot Lalone and passed on voice vote.

MARKETING UPDATE

The subcommittee for the OTAC marketing minutes were offered to attendees as a handout. Marge Gatliff gave a brief summary of the committee's progress. The date for the next meeting is September 27.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- The transportation bill passed. This bill will be good through 2009.
- There are no funds designated for Oakland County. All enhancement programs will continue.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS

- Todd Scott gave a brief update on the Michigan State Park status in the metropolitan areas. The only change for 2006 will be an increase in camping fees. Any increase in the motor vehicle pass will have to be set by the State legislature.
- Marge G reported that the letter of support for Orion Townships safety path extension and grant application was mailed.
- Larry F reported that he attended the first meeting for the I-275 Initiative. OTAC's support was offered.
- Marge announced to members that the book of resources from the GreenWays Initiative Seminar is available for use. Contact Marge for more information.
- It was agreed that business-advertising opportunities can be offered by OTAC member web sites. Lois Golden reported that the Polly Ann Trail website currently gets 170 hits per day. Todd Scott reported that the Michigan Mountain Biking Association gets 2,500 unique visitors per day.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2005** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

Marge Gatliff, Oakland County Parks and Recreation