

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (OTAC)
August 29, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kristen Myers at 9:08 a.m. in the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Waterford Oaks Activity Center.

PRESENT:

Kristen Myers, David Burley, Joe Figa, Kristen Wiltfang, Todd Scott, Dan Stencil, Richie Sulla, Susie Sulla, Chris Doozan, Jacy Garrison, Brian Blaesing, Kris Bennett, Linda Hinkley, Sue Nyquist, Mike Hartner, Jennifer Frederick, Sharon Green, Kay Galipeau, Melissa Prowse

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kristen Meyers requested the following correction to the minutes Paint Creek Trail report:

The Paint Creek Trail will be participating with the Rochester Area's Labor Day art project-Bridge Walk.

Moved by Todd Scott, supported by Brian Blaesing, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2007 OTAC Meeting as corrected. The motion carried on a voice vote.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- The **Paint Creek Trail** Labor Day event will be a 2.4-mile walk and a 5.6-mile run/walk Monday, September 3. The Rochester art project will be held on the river walk in October.
- The **Polly Ann Trail** Dedication & Recognition was very successful. The event was well attended by key stakeholders.
- **Clinton River Trail** alternate representative Mike Hartner shared photos of the completed recycled asphalt surfacing of the trail in Rochester Hills.

The third annual Clinton River Trail Fall Classic Ride is scheduled for Saturday, September 22.

The Velodrome at Bloomer Park 2007 schedule can be accessed at www.velodromeatbloomerpark.com.

A small loop has been created off the trail featuring information on the Mastodon found near Adams Road.

Regarding trail users complaining about the condition of the Sylvan Lake portion of the Clinton River Trail, as soon as they were notified the problem was resolved.

- **West Bloomfield Trail** representative Dave Burley reported that it was still hoped that the rail corridor formerly owned by Larry Coe would become available for purchase to be used as a trail.
- Chris Doozan, representing the **Huron Valley Trail**, reported that they are still negotiating with the MDNR for approval for the relocation of the trail.
- Kay Galipeau reported for **Headwaters Trails** and noted that the Ride the Rose fundraising event resulted in \$1000 in contributions for the Highland Equestrian Conservancy.

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The Headwaters trail will have a booth at Pontiac's Arts Beats and Eats and the mid-summer Holly event in effort to raise additional funds for equestrian activities.

Livingston County has had their first park donated and is currently developing a park authority. The park is located in Deerfield Township.

- Representative Todd Scott of the **Woodward Corridor Trail** reported that the Green Cruise in Ferndale was a success again this year.

CONNECTING MICHIGAN ENDORSEMENT

Melissa Prowse requested that OTAC consider supporting the vision and action plan for the Connecting Michigan Initiative of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. The Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission has offered their support of this action plan.

It was moved by Todd Scott and seconded by Kristen Wiltfang that OTAC sign a resolution supporting the connecting Michigan Statewide Vision and Action Plan. The motion carried on a voice vote.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN (CFSM) FUNDERS WORKSHOP

The third CFSM workshop was attended by Melissa Prowse, Kristen Wiltfang and Larry Falardeau. There were twelve organizations represented, offering information on grants, funding and in-kind service opportunities. Ms. Prowse has the workbook of materials from the event and will make it available to anyone interested in the information.

TRAIL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Melissa Prowse reported on the following:

- Pontiac's Arts Beats and Eats event would be held Labor Day Weekend, August 31 – September 3. Oakland County Parks would have a display table on the ITC Green Street that would provide people with information on parks and also on the Oak Routes trail network.
- The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan held an Access to Recreation workshop on July 30th. The event featured experts from around the country to talk about ways of making recreation universally accessible. The information presented included trails, but also other recreational features such as fishing piers, parking lots, picnic tables, restrooms, etc. If anyone would like a copy of the information presented (on CD) please see Melissa Prowse.
- The 2007 Oakland County Trails Summit is scheduled for October 4th at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. Fundraising efforts are underway. OTAC members will be asked to make brief presentations on their trail systems at the event.
- Oakland County Parks and Recreation and the OTAC Master Plan sub-committee are working to select a consulting firm to complete the county-wide Trails Master Plan. More information will be provided by the Master Plan sub-committee once a firm is selected.
- The OTAC logo was re-designed to show a kayaker and water trail to show the significance of our water resources and blueways to the Oak Routes trail network.

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- Oakland County Parks will be hosting a Trails Tour on September 19th. The sites visited will be the bridge over M-24 on the Polly Ann Trail and the newly surfaced Clinton River Trail in Rochester Hills. The tour is open to all OTAC members and local communities and agencies.
- Melissa Prowse attended the 2007 Trail Link conference of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Portland, Oregon August 7-9. The conference focused on the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation – an effort to increase the federal funding for trails in the next transportation bill. Ms. Prowse also attended a 1-day pre-conference session on trail design, construction, maintenance and other issues. A binder with this information was provided and is available for those interested.
- Oakland County Parks and Recreation currently has a moratorium on the building of new trails within the parks. OCPR will be working over the next several months to create new policy and procedures for volunteer work within the parks. During this time, general trail clearing will be allowed and encouraged, but no major trailwork or earthwork should be done. If there are any questions please contact Melissa Prowse at (248)858-4611 or speak to a park supervisor.
- The Michigan Mountain Biking Association Mountain Bike and Hand Cycle Cross-Country Challenge will be on September 23rd at Addison Oaks County Park.
- The Road Commission for Oakland County is working to clear brush and improve the signage at the Dequindre Road crossing/meeting of the Clinton River and Macomb Orchard Trails.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/TOPICS IN BRIEF

Brian Blaesing reported that the new 2007 Oakland County Road Maps are now available. The map includes the two new Oakland County Parks and has a portion featuring Oakland County Trails. The RCOC is also working with national design experts to try to make safe/accessible pedestrian crossings in areas where roundabouts are being used.

A cut sheet from the DNR clarifying the Michigan State Parks financial budget crisis was made available by Todd Scott.

Sharon Green announced the 2007 Barn Tour fundraiser scheduled for September 29 and the Equestrian Team competition scheduled for September 8, 15, and 17.

Dan Stencil invited members to the Highland Oaks County Park Grand Opening on Friday, September 28 at 11:00 a.m. The park is located on Milford Road ½ mile north of White Lake Road.

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

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday October 24, 2007** at the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan.