

OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 10, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration office.

PRESENT:

Chairman Christopher Doozan, Vice Chairman Dan Navarre, Todd Kauffman, Marge Gatliff, Ed Coe, Larry Falardeau, Kristen Bennett, Kristen Wiltfang, Todd Scott, Dan Stencil, Susan Julian, Ralph Richard, Mike Turk, Tom Newcombe, Chris Bennet, Merle Richmond, Amy Murray, Brian Marzolf

MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Navarre, supported by Mr. Richard to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2003, as submitted.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Christopher Doozan graciously offered to continue in the position of Chairman of the Oakland Trails Advisory Council (OTAC) for another six months.

Moved by Dan Stencil, supported by Larry Falardeau to approve Chairman Christopher Doozan remaining in this position for another six months.

TRAIL SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE DISCUSSION

Dan Navarre requested comments and suggestions regarding how best to communicate trail safety and etiquette. The following comments/suggestions were given:

- Have consistent safety/etiquette standards used at all trails
- Include as part of OTAC Master Plan
- OTAC to take role of leadership in developing trail safety/etiquette standards and education of public
- Develop signage for multi-use trails
- Educate the public using publications
- Post signage at trail heads (the yield priority, etc.)
- Place signage at each major entry to a trail
- Develop a volunteer safety patrol for the trails
- Notify neighbors of the safety and etiquette policies
- Include safety/etiquette policy in each trail association' s brochure
- Include in any press release and/or interviews
- Include in the publication advertising next years "Trail Day" (June 2, 2004)
- Include on OTAC web site
- E-mail all existing safety/etiquette rules now in place to Marge Gatliff

Dan Navarre acknowledge the E-mail containing the web sites containing trail safety and etiquette from Todd Scott and ask if Todd would review the sources he noted and E-mail pertinent information to Marge.

MASTER PLAN PROGRESS REPORT:

Marge Gatliff updated the Council on the progress of the master plan process. The subcommittee meeting has been rescheduled. Marge requested the trail representatives to submit their trail inventory surveys so they may be incorporated in to the OTAC Master Plan.

### JOINT COUNTY TRAILS SUMMIT.

Marge Gatliff reported on the September 4, 2003 Joint County Summit at Bloomer Park in Rochester. The summit was a success with approximately 80 attendees, which included representatives from Canada's World Wide Trails and legislative representative. Attending representatives of Wayne and Macomb Counties remarked that OTAC is leading the area in trail development and coordination.

Dan Stencil suggested that Joint County Summit become an annual event and that our legislative representatives be included in the mailing list for the event next year.

### FALL PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY:

Brian Marzolf from Auburn Hills reported that Walk Your Kid to School Day is scheduled for October 8, 2003 and will be used to announce the opening of their bridge over I-75 near the Avondale High School. There will be a simple ribbon cutting and the unveiling of their sign on the overpass if it is completed on time. There are no objections to OTAC tying into this event for their Fall Promotional Activity. The school will be contacted for approval and possible participation with efforts made to incorporate press coverage. Marge Gatliff offered to help create a flyer.

Sue Julian suggested that next year we ask that the school boards submit a resolution of support for Oakland County Trails and this event to increase awareness. Sue also volunteered to help expedite the process.

Ralph Richard noted that there is up to \$2,500 available to generate handouts as well as park stickers to be used in a drawing. Notify Marge Gatliff with events being promoted.

The Classic Car Event at Independence Oaks is scheduled for September 13. Oakland County Parks is hosting "Take a Hike" at the event to promote trails and is offering giveaways when participants attempt the 2.5-mile hike around Crooked Lake.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

---Dan Navarre reported that the House has supported continuation of the Transportation Enhancement Act funding trails for the 2004 fiscal year. A resolution from the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission supporting this position was submitted to our legislators. Next, this issue will go to the Senate and to committee for consideration. Council members were asked to call and/or fax letters to our representative in the Senate asking them to support continuing TE funds for trails.

### WEB SITE PROGRESS

A presentation was given by Kirsten Wiltfang and Larry Falardeau of Oakland County Planning and Economic Development. The web site was presented and the interactive maps and comprehensive data demonstrated. It was suggested that parking areas, restrooms, trail safety and etiquette could be included. Also, an annual calendar of trail events could be posted on the site and used to promote trails.

Kirsten Wiltfang passed a tri-colored brochure Oakland County map including trails that is being developed and will become available.

### EQUESTRIAN SURVEY

Copies of the surveys were distributed; however, they are not yet complete. A final survey will be presented when available. Merle Richmond requested 8-1/2 X 11-inch maps of the Oakland County townships from Oakland County Planning and Economic Development; Larry Falardeau said that would not be a problem.

OTHER BUSINESS:

---Marge Gatliff made flyers available for the Clinton River Trail Walk-a-Thon to be held Saturday, September 23, 2003 in Rochester.

--It was moved by Dan Navarre, supported by Sue Julian that Christopher Doozan, as chairman of OTAC, submit a letter of support for the acquisition of the Sullivan property in Addison Township by Oakland County Parks and Recreation. The motion was unanimously carried on a voice vote.

---Todd Scott briefly reported on National Scenic and Historic Trails and how their success has been aided by a corporate sponsorship from Ford dedicating \$250,000 over five years. He also relayed information about the SKY program, which incorporates troubled youth into trails maintenance. They have created a farm to grow required plant material and been funded, in part, by Revegetation Grants.

---Marge Gatliff noted how important donations can be in helping with developing trails. She asks that members of the Council contact her with any donation connections they may be aware of and the name of a contact person.

---Ralph Richard updated the Council on the Equestrian Center being considered for Springfield Oaks County Park, the move of the Ellis Barn to the park, and a grant application to be submitted for funding of a restroom facility at the park; allowing the development of a trailhead at the facility as well as the hosting of numerous equestrian events at the park. The 4-H program manages this park and will assist with the development of the equestrian facilities.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 2003, in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

*Suzanne J. Ball, Oakland County Parks and Recreation*