

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (OTAC)
October 25, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kristen Myers at 9:03 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

PRESENT:

Kristen Myers, Kristen Wiltfang, Joe Figa, Merle Richmond, Dot LaLone, Bruce Austin, Susie Sulla, Sue Julian, Sharon Greene, Caryn Robinson, Mat Gaberty, Linda Hinkley, Wesley King, Deanna Magee, Erin Lavender, Brittany Bird, David Burley, Jenny Frederick, Todd Scott, Melissa Prowse

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Bruce Austin, supported by Dot LaLone, to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2006 OTAC meeting. The motion passed on voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRAILS NETWORK COORDINATOR

Joe Figa introduced the new Trails Network Coordinator Melissa Prowse.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- Paint Creek Trail representative Kristen Myers reported they are receiving proposals for the completion of a boundary survey. They hope to have them evaluated within the month. Vandalism has become an issue on the trail.
- The Polly Ann Trail's new bridge over M-24 is now open for use.
- The Clinton River Trail has completed the installation of some new map boxes with a new design provided as a result of a Boy Scout Project. Bruce Austin will bring one to a future meeting to show OTAC members.
- West Bloomfield Trail representative Dave Burley reported that their new trail map is almost complete.
- Headwaters Trail representative Dot LaLone reported their October 1 canoe event was attended by over 50 and the new canoe launch and bridge are now complete.

MOUNTIAN BIKING PERSPECTIVE PRESENTATION – TODD SCOTT

Todd Scott gave a PowerPoint presentation: "Oakland County Trails from a Mountain Biking Perspective." Examples of the different types of mountain bike trails, reasons for mountain biking and statistics relating to Michigan mountain biking were given. Further mountain biking information is available at www.mmba.org.

TRAILS SUMMIT SUMMARY

OTAC trail coordinator Melissa Prowse gave a brief review of the October Trail Summit held at Indian Springs Metropark and distributed an Evaluation Form Results summary.

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The summit theme of "Follow the Money Trail" was well received and the event was attended by more than 80 individuals.

Melissa also attended an event given by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The visioning workshop and speakers covered the new envisioned web site that will provide interactive mapping for Southeast Michigan. The Foundation is also working on updating the region-wide greenway GIS data, and is creating a documentary on greenways in the region.

NEW SPEED LIMITS

Mat Gaberty gave a brief update on the new Michigan speed limit laws effective November 9, 2006.

The new speed limit laws amend several sections of the Michigan Vehicle Code related to the establishing and posting of speed limits. The law increases freeway truck speeds to 60 mph only when the maximum speed limit is 70 mph, increases minimum freeway speed to 55 mph, sets the maximum speed for school buses at 55 mph and retains the 55 mph speed limit on unposted roads and highways. The intent is to reduce speed differential on streets, highways, freeways and interstates.

The "rural residential" speed limit on gravel roads is eliminated. Changes were made to the definition of business district and a new formula for the setting of speed limits on urban, suburban and rural highways and roads based on access points has been established. The revisions do not eliminate the necessity of posting speed limits, maintaining TCOs (Traffic Control Orders) or conducting traffic and engineering studies when applicable. Township boards are involved in setting speed limits along with the Michigan State Police and the county road commission.

The basic speed law specifying that one should not drive in excess of one's abilities, weather conditions etc. and the requirement for a driver to stop within the assured clear distance remain in place.

Specific information can be found on the Michigan state legislature web site at www.legislature.mi.gov.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The OTAC Goals and Objectives have not been revised since 2005. The 2005 goals and objectives will be e-mailed to members to review. Recommendations for additions and revisions of these goals and objectives should be brought back to the next OTAC meeting.
- The December OTAC meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. A Holiday luncheon will be after the meeting.
- A list of the proposed 2007 OTAC meeting dates was made available.
- The Trails Master Plan subcommittee will be meeting during the next six months to work on the development of a Trails Master Plan for the county.
- A subcommittee on signage was formed; Kristen Wiltfang, Dot LaLone, Kristen Myers and Dave Burley
- Sharon Greene reported that Highland Township is working on a new trails and green infrastructure plan.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2006** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

Melissa Prowse, OCPR