

**OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (OTAC)  
November 16, 2005**

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

**PRESENT:**

Marge Gatliff, Mat Gaberty, Merle Richmond, Bruce Austin, Linda Bloch, Larry Lockwood, Kristen Myers, Sue Nyquist, David Burley, Dot Lalone, Kristen Wiltfang, Todd Scott, Joe Figa, Ralph Richard, Jennifer Fredrick, Kristen Bennett, Luba Sitar, Ron Olson and Dan Stencil.

**MINUTES:**

Moved by Dan Stencil, supported by Dot Lalone, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2005 meeting. The motion passed on voice vote.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Letter of support for Orion Township's proposed trail project and grant application request.

Moved by Mat Gaberty, supported by Kristen Wiltfang, to approve the addition of "letter of support for Orion Townships proposed trail project and grant application" to the OTAC 11/16/05 agenda. The motion passed on voice vote.

**TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:**

There were no new items to report, except:

- **The Headwaters Trail** - Approximately 4 miles of utility corridors have been walked and photographed for consideration for use as trails and show any possible encroachment issues. Additional corridors will be walked in the spring.

Grant funding is being pursued at this time.

**MDNR CHIEF OF PARKS & RECREATION RON OLSON PRESENTATION**

Mr. Olson presented an overview of the Michigan State Parks (MSP) status.

There are 97 state parks comprised of 284,000 acres of land. The parks contain camping, trails and boating/fishing opportunities. State parks add significantly to the Michigan economy and are a vital resource for the state.

Revenue short falls is a pressing issue the state parks are facing. A 17-member state advisory committee has been developed to assist in addressing this issue. Staff reduction, fee increases, and a new fee model are being explored. Now that there is no assistance from the State's general fund, finding a new sustainable revenue is essential. Possibilities include a fee added to automobile registrations, partnerships, new management plans, and expanded revenue producing recreational opportunities (rental cabins, etc.)

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Forward any ideas and/or questions to Mr. Olsen at [olsenr@mi.gov](mailto:olsenr@mi.gov).

### **ORION TOWNSHIP LETTER OF SUPPORT**

A letter of support for a proposed trail project was requested by Orion Township.

Orion Township is apply to the Greenways Initiative of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan for a grant to assist with the funding for the resurfacing and construction of a trail from Heights Road to Baldwin Road on the old railroad bed and in the utility corridor.

Bruce Austin moved that a letter of support be drafted and mailed to Orion Township supporting their proposed trail project and grant application. The motion was supported by Dot Lalone and passed on voice vote.

### **TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT**

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

- Over sixty persons attended the Veteran's Day event. The event will be again scheduled for Veteran's Day 2006.
- The MDOT non-motorized meeting was rescheduled to January 10, 2006.
- Kristen Wiltfang presented the completed, updated trail map. She requested that members review the map and return any comments/changes to her within the next 2 weeks.
- Sponsors of OTAC materials are now listed on the OTAC web site.
- The OTAC web site received 3,135 hits in the month of July.
- There will be a meeting attended by Ralph Richard, Kristen Wiltfang, Joe Figa, Jim Keglovitz, Larry Falardeau, Marge Gatliff and Dan Stencil to discuss funding for a regional master plan.

The goal is to develop a 7-county master plan to link the greenways in southeastern Michigan. Each of the counties and Detroit is to host two charettes to initiate a collaborative planning process that harnesses the talents and energies of all interested parties to create and support a feasible plan to link the greenways in southeaster Michigan. The GreenWays Initiative is offering \$10,000 and the services of Chuck Flink to facilitate these charettes. A trail summary/inventory for these counties will be the starting point for this plan.

### **HOLIDAY PARTY**

Members voted to have a holiday luncheon after the December 21, 2005 OTAC meeting. A five-dollar donation collected at the lunch will be used to cover the cost.

### **APPROVAL OF 2006 OTAC MEETING DATES**

The schedule of meetings for 2006 was approved as presented with the exception of the November meeting being moved to Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> and the December meeting being moved to the 13<sup>th</sup>.

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#### **FUTURE PRESENTATION TOPICS**

Trails coordinator Marge Gatliff requested suggestions for presentations for future meetings. The following were suggested:

- Mike Reuter, Mountain Bike Advocate
- State Parks Management Planning Presentation
- MDOT presentation AASHTO standards

Send all suggestions to Marge at [gatliffm@co.oakland.mi.us](mailto:gatliffm@co.oakland.mi.us).

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- Work on a new bicycle bill will be completed to introduce to a senate committee next week. This bill is an attempt to up-date Michigan law, bringing it more in line with the universal vehicle code.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS**

- Todd Scott reported that the "Ice Man" mountain bike race from Kalkaska to Traverse City will take place in December. Last year their web site had over 3000 unique visitors after the race. Over 89% of their web site visitors have e-mail addresses.
- The township of Orion is applying for grants to assist in funding an up-grade of the camping area electrical and trails signage.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2005** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

*Marge Gatliff, Trail Network Coordinator*