

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
November 17, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Navarre at 9:06 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration building.

PRESENT:

Marge Gatliff, Kristen Wiltfang, Dan Duncan, Dot Lalone, Todd Scott, Lois Golden, Kristen Bennett, Joe Figa, Merle Richmond, Barry Culham, Larry Falardeau, Brian Blaesing, Ralph Richard, Kristen Myers, Sue Julian, Lucinda Means, Nicole Chandler, Fred Dore and Bruce Austin.

MINUTES:

Moved by Kristen Myers, supported by Dan Duncan, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2004 meeting as submitted. The motion passed on voice vote.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- No additions/deletions to agenda.

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- Paint Creek Trail: Kristen Myers reported that the Paint Creek Surfacing project is complete ahead of schedule. It will be open to the public in approximately one-month. The project was a culmination of Spalding DeDecker & Associates and ABC Paving.

- The Polly Ann Trail Bridge project in Lake Orion has been put on hold until some controversies can be resolved.

Lois Golden reported that the problems were the results of poor communications and misconceptions by some of the citizens. The scope will be changed to bring the bridge into AASHTO compliance.

- Clinton River Trail representative Bruce Austin announced that the new portion of the trail is now open. Bridge railings still need to be installed and signage issues resolved.

Todd Scott reported that an opportunity to acquire an easement to complete the north spur of the trail might become available and play a part in the loop system. He is attending a meeting where this will be discussed further.

- The West Bloomfield Trail has experienced consistent use and has no new news to report.
- Lakes Community Trail representative Deanna McGee contacted Marge Gatliff requesting to be excused due to an extenuating circumstance.
- Huron Valley Trail will expand north through Kensington Metropark and extend through Milford. A Millage was passed to assist in the funding of the project.
- Headwaters Trail representative Dot Lalone is participating in a meeting to discuss signage for trails and is pleased to announce that a Greenways Grant has been secured.
- The Woodward Corridor Trail representative Todd Scott reported that MDOT will take ownership of bridges crossing roads. They will maintain the structural integrity of the

bridge. Each trail or community will have to pay for each 2-year inspection and take care of daily maintenance and snow removal etc.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CLINTON RIVER TRAIL BRIDGE OVER TELEGRAPH

OTAC has received a request for a letter of support for the Clinton River Trail application for a Greenways Foundation Grant for this project. Dan Duncan moved that a letter be drafted and mailed supporting the project. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RAILS TO TRAILS 1-275 PROJECT

Nancy Krupiarz requested a letter supporting Rails to Trails efforts to revive the I-275 trail, improving the condition of the trail. A motion was made by Dan Duncan and seconded by Dot Lalone that a letter of support be drafted and mailed. The motion passed on a voice vote.

PRESENTATION BY LUCINDA MEANS, LEAGUE OF MICHIGAN BICYCLISTS.

An overview of the League of Michigan Bicyclists was presented by Ms. Means. She highlighted the health and environmental aspects of biking. She offered some of their handout materials available for local trail events (*What Every Bicyclist Must Know* and SEMCOG's *Map for Metro Region*.) Contact them at their website www.mmb.com with your requests. The Map is updated every 2 years.

Quality of life was demonstrated as a vital issue in today's society, particularly in Michigan. Every 45 minutes an individual 25-34 years old leaves the state.

Michigan is a destination vacation state for all types of trail users, adding to the local economy. Trail users are numerous and considered low impact visitors.

Michigan's population is considered one of the fattest states in the union. Trail use and programs, such as Safe Routes to School and Michigan Steps Up, encourage alternate modes of transportation and will benefit the health of the population.

DATE CHANGE FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETINGS

There will be **no December meeting**. January will have two meetings.

The first will be **Wednesday, January 12, 2005**. This meeting will focus on the goals and master plan for the Oakland Trails Advisory Council. It is vital that representatives bring their suggestions and proposals to contribute to the future path of OTAC.

The OTAC regular meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 26, 2005**.

TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

- The Oakland County Trail Maps were made available to the membership. Due to the poor quality of the color in the map, an additional 1,000 are being printed at no cost. Please let Marge know when you are in need of maps and she will distribute. She is keeping tabs on the totals distributed. Every two years the map will be reviewed for needed updates. Event notices/calendars of events can be inserted as needed at the time of distribution.

When the next map is printed, it is hoped that we will have established some sponsors to contribute to the cost.

- The MRPA Trails Committee will have their first meeting on January 14, 2005 in Woodhaven. Contact Marge if you are interested in attending.
- Larry Falardeau and Kristen Wiltfang have been working on a new OTAC map to offer as bases for a OTAC master plan. At the January planning session, he requests that each trail representative bring a detailed list of their proposed CIP projects as well as those currently

being undertaken. The information can be e-mailed to him in advance for inclusion to a draft map.

- A Community Service Award will be presented to Amy Murray at the January 12, 2005 meeting in Lansing. There will be a fee for entry. Contact Marge for more information.
- The Mid-Michigan Trails Summit will be held in Lansing on Saturday, November 20th. Marge will be giving a presentation. If you need addition information on this event, please contact Marge Gatliff.
- Sergeant Hurst was introduced. He will be the Oakland County Sheriff's Department liaison for OTAC.
- The RTC Michigander group representative volunteered that they would be willing to give a donation to assist with promotional materials etc.
- Marge attended the Designing Healthy Livable Communities conference presented at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, Michigan. She has the booklet available for those who would like to review it. Also, there is a CD available. Contact Marge for more information.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS

- Merle Richmond of the Oakland County Equestrians reported that their map is now available on their website for downloading. She also made available handouts from their Equestrian EXPO.

- Kristen Bennett reported that:

She is participating in a council to look at the Paint Creek and the Polly Ann Trails in an effort to connect parks in the area with the trails. An engineer is assisting in this planning.

The State has been divided into ten zones in which some 96 established State Parks will be redistributed to local communities. There are 5 pilot parks currently under consideration. As stakeholders in the changes that are being formulated for the 10 zones, she encourages all trail representatives to take part to assist getting trail easements through these parks as the changes are formulated. Larry Falardeau requested a list of the 1st ten parks to be distributed be sent to him.

She will be attending a meeting in January/February to proceed with the pilot plan for Pontiac Lake Recreation Area.

- Todd Scott reported that there is a new AASHTO book on designing recreational facilities available on their website. He also noted that there is a book on non-asphalt trail design standards for trails available for purchase on naturescape.com.
- The Michigan Department of Transportation has the results of a survey of trail users as to what type of trail facilities they prefer. This information is available on their web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The December meeting has been cancelled.

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 12, 2005** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

sjb, Oakland County Parks and Recreation