

OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
December 10, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration office.

PRESENT:

Chairman Christopher Doozan, Trails Network Coordinator Marge Gatliff, Joe Figa, Kristen Wiltfang, Larry Falardeau, Todd Scott, Dan Stencil, Kris Bennett, Ed Coe, Amy Murray, Sharon Greene, Ralph Richard, Brian Blaesing, Chris Cook, Dot LaLone, Dan Navarre, Linda Bloch, Mike Hartner

MINUTES:

Moved by Brian Blessing, supported by Dan Navarre to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2003 meeting, as submitted.

WEST BLOOMFIELD MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL TRAIL DIRECTOR DAN NAVARRE

Dan Navarre gave a brief project review of West Bloomfield's project to restore their Heron Rookery. The project is being funded by a grant and a contribution from Sprint in conjunction with a communications tower construction.

AMY MURRY OF THE POLLY ANN TRAIL

Amy Murray reported that the trail meeting regarding connecting the Polly Ann and Paint Creek trails was very productive. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 16, 3004 at 1:00 p.m. in Orion Township.

MARK HARTNER – CLINTON RIVER RAIL-TRAIL

Mr. Hartner reported that the Clinton River Rail-Trail has received MDOT funds for their Clinton River Trail bridge construction.

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) has not been supportive of their efforts to create safe mid-block crossings of Oakland County roads. They have supported stripping of the crossing areas but not of the construction of traffic islands (refuge islands) in multi-lane roads to offer additional crossing safety for trail users. Brian Blessing noted that the islands can be a problem when snow removal is required. It was also noted that push-button lights for crossings can obstruct traffic flow and are not the perfect solution.

Moved by Larry Falardeau, to ask Norm Cox to give a presentation in January offering an overview of their project, including the safety issues at road crossings and to also request a RCOC traffic safety representative attend.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

Amy Murray suggested that OTAC members bring a list of road crossings to clarify how many crossings are effected, so that the number of Oakland County road crossings could be substantiated and a RCOC policy be requested for nonvehicular road crossings.

Larry Falardeau indicated that if the points of the road crossings were forwarded to him they could be incorporated into a map to illustrate the areas of concern for the RCOC.

Brian Blaesing indicated that traffic safety approves the design for new construction with 90% focused on vehicular safety and noted that often the solution to non-vehicular safety in urban settings does not work in an urban setting.

CHRIS COOK – VIDEOGRAHER PRESENTATION

Mr. Cook played a videocassette he created for Macomb County to promote and market the Macomb County Orchard Trail. The video clarifies and demonstrates needs and existing conditions relating to the project. Macomb's video was funded in part by an MDOT grant.

The cost for a video is usually \$20,000 to \$50,000 and takes at least three months to complete. To consider using a video, OTAC would need to determine what the needs are, what they are trying to

accomplished, and how much funding is available. The organization contracting the video obtains full copyrights. Mr. Cook requests releases from all participants in the video.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The TEA 21 funds have been extended for six months.

MASTER PLAN

Chris Doozan indicated that the Master Plan Committee is progressing with the development of the master plan. The next meeting will be in January 14, 2004. The target date for completion is May 2004.

TRAILS NETWORK COORDINATOR UPDATE

---The OTAC website should be up and operational next month.

---The development of the OTAC brochure is progressing and should be complete within the next two months.

---A sign-up sheet was passed for members to sign to confirm interest in the development of an OTAC shirt.

---Oakland County Parks and Recreation are officially participants of the "Walk Michigan" program and will be incorporating it into events they sponsor.

---A donation of \$5,000 was received by Nancy Krupiarz of Rails to Trails for the Clinton River Trail. The Friends of Clinton River Trail has an existing account and will manage the funds until needed.

OTHER BUSINESS; COMMENTS.

---Macomb County has contracted with Wade Trim for the development of a master plan for their trails. The project will be done in three phases. Construction documents will be part of one of the phases. Larry Falardeau suggested that when the plan is complete OTAC should request a presentation and offer links from the OTAC website.

---Dan Duncan of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority requested that another date or time be considered for the regular OTAC meetings as he now has a consistent conflict with the schedule. It was decided to change the meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the same day and date. (The second Wednesday of each month).

---Dan Stencil reported that Oakland County Parks and Recreation staff toured Independence Oaks, Red Oaks, and Lyon Oaks parks to determine possibilities for equestrians. A report is available for those interested.

---Nameplates have been ordered for the voting members of OTAC and will be placed on the table in the commission room for seating.

---Greg Givens of Oakland County Fiscal Services will be giving a presentation at the January OTAC meeting to assist in identifying available grants that could be utilized by OTAC members.

---Todd Scott is meeting with the City of Madison Heights planner to discuss the possibility of a trail installation over the Red Run Drain.

---The December Michigan Transit Summit meeting endorsed adding trails to the MDOT metro area master plan and maps. This MDOT metro region includes a five county area. The project will start with Sinclair County.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m. and was followed by the OTAC Holiday Luncheon.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2004 in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration office.