

**OAKLAND COUNTY
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
June 23, 2004**

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

PRESENT:

Marge Gatliff, Kristen Wiltfang, Larry Falardeau, Dan Duncan, Merle Richmond, Dot Lalone, Mat Gaberty, Dan Navarre, Robert Golda, Joe Naudone, Chris Doozan, Deanna Magee, Todd Scott, Lois Golden, Mike Hartner, Anita Twardesky, Sharon Greene

MINUTES:

Moved by Dan Duncan, supported by Mat Gaberty, to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2004 meeting. The motion passed on voice vote.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

1. Presentation on Greeways by Anita Twardesky
2. Filling of the vice-chair position
3. Amending by-laws to recognize "Lakes Community Trail" as a voting member

TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE:

- Paint Creek Trail: On June 12, the Paint Creek trail had a successful National Trail Day event. Businesses have shown interest in the trail and contributed to the Paint Creek trail. A "Thank you" was extended to Oakland County Planning & Development for making maps available to them and also for OTAC's letter of support for their MNRTF project applications.
- Clinton River Rail-Trail: Mike Hartner reported that the linking of the trail with Rochester and Pontiac is progressing
- Polly Ann Trail: no representative present.
- The Clinton River Trail: no representative present.
- West Bloomfield Trail: Dan Navarre reported that they are proceeding with their trails development and noted that at the Heron rookery the young birds will soon be leaving their nests.
- Lakes Community Trail: are hosting a meeting on July 16 in the Wixom Community Center.
- Huron Valley Trail: Dan Duncan reported that the trail will submit a joint application with Milford to acquire funding for the extension of the trail.
- Headwaters Trail: Dot Lalone reported that she attended a seminar on team building to assist in the development of trails and gave a brief update on the progress of the trail.
- MMBA/Woodward Corridor: had no report to offer.

GREENWAYS PRESENTATION BY ANITA TWARDESKY

Anita Twardesky of Woodhaven Parks and Recreation gave a power point presentation on the Benefits of Greeways with reference to:

- How They Began
- Master Plan Elements
- Plan Implementation
- Bridges of Partners
- The Issues (funding, lead agency, approvals, and master plan amendments)

- The Benefits Summary
- Successful Connection of People and Places

TRAIL NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

- "Walk Michigan-Walk Oakland" registration forms were made available. All forms to be returned to Marge when completed by participants.
- The "Lakes Community Trail" meeting is at 9:00 a.m. at Friday, July 16, 2004 at the Wixom Community Center.
- Pedometers (a limit of 25) are available for trail events.
- The OTAC brochure was passed for final approval. All present approved the brochure.
- The trail network logo was passed for each to select the one they liked. Consensus selected the logo, which shall be adopted by the Oakland Trails Network.
- The recommendation to accepting a trails committee representative as a voting member will be presented to the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association for approval at their August meeting.
- Michigan State University is conducting a study of the Paint Creek Trail and is looking for volunteers to assist them. The study will be taking place from June 14 through September 15.
- At the July OTAC meeting the International Transmission Company (ITC) will give a presentation regarding the pedestrian walkway and bike path development procedures required to seek their participation in a greenways participation project. Copies of the trail procedures were made available to members.
- The Governor's Council/Department of Community Health has been invited to speak at the August OTAC meeting.
- The DNR is requesting letters of support for their grant application. Daniel Lord contacted Marge Gatliff regarding this request for OTAC's support of their proposal for the Bald Mountain linkages of the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails.

It was moved by Mike Hartner, seconded, and carried by voice vote that Marge Gatliff draft a letter of from OTAC supporting this grant application. It was noted that there may be other more direct routes to connect these areas.

- Marge gave a recap of the Polly Ann/Paint Creek/DNR connection meeting.
- Larry Falardeau recapped the meeting with McKenna and Associates and the Clawson meeting.
- Marge announced that any fall events to be posted on the OTAC website need to be turned in to Marge as soon as possible.

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The Master Plan subcommittee will meet following the next OTAC meeting due to an absence of members.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The national governing body in Washington DC accepted the proposal to support trails. Their next step will be to determine which issues they will address.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS

-Todd Scott reported that MDOT has committed to a 30-mile trail along I-75. A master plan for the trail needs to be developed with the communities along the way.

- Merle Richmond introduced Sharon Greene to give an equestrian up-date on the Oakland County Equestrians. She reported that the county's equestrian sports have been expanding. The middle

school had an equestrian team of 30 members. The 4-H horse camp is now at Springfield Oaks for the 11th year and last Saturday there was an adult horse camp at Springfield Oaks.

- There not being a quorum at this June meeting, Dan Navarre noted that the change in the by-laws will be made at the next meeting to provide a vehicle to add voting members to OTAC as new trail groups are developed in Oakland County (i.e. Lakes Community Trail).
- The filling of the vice-chair position shall be an agenda on the July OTAC agenda.
- Thanks was given to Marge Gatliff for her assistance at the National Trail Day event on the Paint Creek Trail June 12.

The meeting adjourned 10:42 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 28, 2004** in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration building.

SJB, Oakland County Parks and Recreation