

OAKLAND COUNTY  
TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
November 12, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission's administration office.

PRESENT:

Chairman Christopher Doozan, Marge Gatliff, Joe Figa, Kristen Wiltfang, Todd Scott, Dan Stencil, Kristen Myers, Kris Bennett, Ed Coe, Amy Murray, Mike Shearing, Merle Richmond, Todd Kauffman, Ralph Richard, Brian Marzolf, Randy McKinney, Tom Pozolo, Brian Blaesing

MINUTES:

Minutes of the October 8, 2003 meeting were accepted with the following correction: Page 2, under Allocation of Road Funds, line four should read, "Todd Scott is attempting to have this factor incorporated into the safety points used by Oakland County Road Commission (OCRC) as a tool to select candidates to acquire a grant; with 14% of the safety points reflecting engineering/design to allow greater safety for pedestrians/bikers."

TRAIL SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding the safety, etiquette and rules for trails was postponed due to the absence of Dan Navarre.

TRAILS NETWORK COORDINATOR REPORT

Marge Gatliff, Trails Network Coordinator, presented an up-date on the following:

- The possibility of shirts for OTAC committee members—an example was displayed. Marge noted that OCPR communications was currently helping to create a logo for OTAC. Those interested in forming a sub-committee for this project should contact Marge Gatliff.
- The new draft of the Oakland County Trail Map was distributed and Marge received comments/changes and additions for consideration.
- The Oakland County Planning and Economic Development web site is available on line. If OTAC members can not locate the site, they can contact Marge for assistance. The desire to have the type of trail surface/available uses of each trail noted on the map was requested. Joe Figa noted that map can have links and layers to specific trail sites where more specific information can be offered.
- The draft brochure/map for OTAC was available for viewing and all additional trail up-dates and requested additions to the brochure were due today, November 12.
- The final version of the OTAC letterhead was presented. Marge will proceed with processing an order.
- Mike Shearing of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Sheriff's Division was introduced and invited to assist OTAC in addressing the safety issues of trails. Sargent Shearing noted that Oakland County has 30 mounted officers as well as a mountain bike unit. These officers are part time employees of Oakland County and are compensated for participation as deputies for the community events and activities. Mike will bring a basic cost breakdown to the next OTAC meeting.
- The Polly Ann and Paint Creek are having a connections group meeting at Friendship Park in Lake Orion on November 21 at 1:00 p.m. All were invited to attend. Contact Marge Gatliff for more specific information.
- A video was shown demonstrating two new alternate types of trail surfacing. Both appeared to be sound alternates and are being tested in Oakland County. However, their costs are a deterrent at this time.
- The State of Michigan is promoting a "Safe Routes To School" program. This program will involve local law enforcement. Applications to participate must be completed by the schools to be considered

for next year. The application and program information is available on the Michigan.gov web site under physical fitness on the health/safety link.

- Brian Blaesing of the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) reviewed the joint project with Oakland County Planning and Development to produce a new Oakland County Road Map. In the past each produced their own. Now it will be a joint venture with joint cost sharing. It is projected that this map will be produced approximately every two years and will utilize GIS technology to produce a quality map and include as much information as possible. Marge Gatliff was invited to attend as an OTAC representative to promote the inclusion of trails when possible without conflicting with other essential data on the map. The next meeting will be on November 16, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in room 104 of the Executive Office Building (EOB). Kristen Wiltfang will confirm the date and time, and notify Marge.
- A meeting of the OTAC master plan sub committee is to follow the conclusion of today's OTAC meeting.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

No comments were received regarding legislative activities taking place at this time.

#### EQUESTRIAN SURVEY UPDATE

Merle Richmond distributed the monthly report for OTAC from the Oakland Equestrian Coalition. Their goal is to have the complete Oakland County census compiled by the December meeting. Also attached were excerpts from Federal Highway Funding for Equestrian Trails, The Resource - the official newsletter of the equestrian land conservation resource, and The Horsemen's Annotated Bibliography for Defense of Trails.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

---Merle Richmond made available a handout for an event at the Novi Expo on this Friday, Saturday and Sunday the November 14, 15 and 16.

---The current status of the Pontiac Lake Recreation area was discussed. Pro's and con's of various proposals were discussed. The role of Oakland County Parks and Recreation, if any, is not clear at this time. There have been meetings with many parties concerned with the fate of this park but no conclusions made at this time. The State of Michigan is struggling with shortages in funding for operating such facilities. Additional meetings are scheduled as an attempt to come up with the best resolution for the future of this park.

---Tom Pozolo and Tandy McKinney of MDOT noted that information regarding the 2004 county roads projects are available on their web site (Projects are listed) and that their five-year plan is also located at the site.

---Marge Gatliff noted that trails had been featured in the Oakland Press section for children that features the YAK. The section was circulated among the committee.

---Marge reminded the committee to leave their pictures and information for inclusion in the OTAC brochure with her at the end of the meeting.

---Marge shared a letter from the Office of the Governor in Lansing thanking OTAC for their recommendation of Mr. Gibson as a board member.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2003, in the commission room of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation administration office.

*SJB, Oakland County Parks and Recreation*