



Oakland County Trails Advisory Council

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Administration Office
2800 Watkins Lake Road, Building 97 West Waterford, Michigan

Minutes

June 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Dot LaLone, Vice Chair, at 9:10 a.m. in the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission Room.

Present

Kristen Wiltfang, Mark Spencer, Jenny Frederick, Andrew Mutch, Jeff Edwards, Heather Smith, Dave Burley, Ron Campbell, Jacy Garrison, Mike Hartner, Chris Doozan, Sue Julian, Kim Durkin, Sue Nyquist, Sue Wells, Stephanie Marchbanks, Kristen Bennett, Sharon Greene, Dot LaLone and Todd Scott.

Approval of Minutes

Action: Todd Scott was added to the list of attendees "Present". Approval of the corrected minutes from February 25, 2009 were moved by Todd Scott and supported by Kristen Bennett. The motion passed on voice vote.

Additions to the Agenda

Sue Julian asked for ARRA Funds discussion—"TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grants"—Stimulus Money. Todd Scott asked to give an update on the State Parks Funding.

Trail Network Update

Paint Creek Trail—Kristen Myers:

Kristen Wiltfang gave an update on the property encroachments, stating there were about 50 discovered along the trail. She also informed us of the lawsuit with the adjoining property owners.

Polly Ann Trail—Troy Farwell

(No update at this time)

Clinton River Trail—Brian Marzolf

Mike Hartner reported on the newsletter. Additionally, they received stimulus grant monies for the bridge over Telegraph Rd. to begin construction in 2010. There were about 140 kayaks/canoes at their first Paddlepalooza in Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills, and Rochester.

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West Bloomfield Trail—Dave Burley

Dot asked Dave about the encroachment situation in West Bloomfield. They did a survey on a specific section of trail. DTE has allowed an easement and W.B. has granted one easement. He also mentioned there was an option to buy the old Michigan Air-Line Railroad (Coe section). The communities have formed the Commerce, Walled Lake, and Wixom Trailway Management Council to acquire the rest of Michigan Air-Line Railroad and are submitting a grant application to MNRTF for Aug. 09.

Lakes Community Trail—Deanna Magee

(No update at this time)

Huron Valley Trail—Chris Doozan

They're working with the DNR on the crossing for the Huron Valley Trail. They're keeping the existing trail, received easements along Ring Road and Grand River Avenue; under construction. There aren't any bike lanes on Ring Road.

Headwaters Trail—Dot LaLone

Sue Julian provided an update on the 100 paddlers that showed up for the Annual Canoe/Kayak Race & Leisure Paddle June 7th from Holly to Fenton. She spoke about launch maintenance and the future waterways from Holly to Saginaw Bay. The mile posts have been installed. An update was provided on the REI and Kodak grant. The Headwaters group is also working with the Highland Equestrian Conservancy.

Woodward Corridor Trail—Todd Scott

The City of Troy and planning consultants continue to make progress on Troy's non-motorized plan. A strong emphasis is on planning for bike lanes and complete streets, not just sidewalks. Royal Oak is using ARRA funds – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant money for non-motorized planning. The Woodward Avenue Action Association held a Bike to Work Day; 40 people attended in May. The Transit Center work is still in progress; considering how to make it easier to walk and bike to it.

I-275 Metro Trail—Jeff Edwards

Received \$5M Stimulus money for trail and bridge design to start in the fall. Hines Drive north to Meadowbrook Rd \$4.75M non-motorized purposes—signage and mile markers. Bike path extension project on M-5, west side between 13-14 Mile Rd. Both projects in are in the design phase. Received CMAQ funds; hoping for some Stimulus Redistribution money. The unofficial non-motorized name for the trail is "I-275 Metro Trail".

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Oak Streets Neighborhood Revitalization Program and Design Assistance Program Presentation—Ron Campbell, Oakland County Planning

Currently working with owners of historic buildings in communities to preserve, rehabilitate, restore and/or reconstruct buildings for historic preservation. Place-Making, Main Street Community Planning efforts increases, protects and preserves neighborhood values. Addison Township is moving the Arnold School to the Watershed Preserve to be used as a trailhead and educational center. Additional information on HP and DAP is available in brochures. They are “Historic Preservation”, “Downtown Revitalization”, “Design Assistance Program”, and the “Financial Incentives”. Oakland County Planning’s 12th Annual Heritage Conference “Adapting to Changing Times” will take place on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at the Crofoot Ballroom in Downtown Pontiac.

OTAC Bylaws Update

Suggested changes to the Bylaws were submitted by Jon Noyes, OCPRC, in an effort to bring the Bylaws into alignment with the OCPRC Strategic Plan. Terminology changes were suggested to incorporate OCPRC and recreational connectivity into the newly posted Recreation and Trail Planner position. Jon suggested the council to review and form a sub-committee for the renewal of the Bylaws. An inquiry was made about the current status of the Recreation and Trail Planner position (former Trails Coordinator position). Jon explained the new position is more of a planning position and the candidate will spend 25% of their time working with OTAC and providing technical assistance. The position should be filled by the fall. Dave Burley made a recommendation that we table action on the Bylaws to the next OTAC meeting. Jon Noyes was asked for more information. The legal department will be asked for input.

Oakland County Trail Summit Update

Stephanie Marchbanks announced the date for the upcoming Oakland County Trail Summit. The event will be held on Thursday, October 8 at Proud Lake Recreation Area. The timeframe will around 9:00 to 3:00 and the theme is By Land, By Water. So far, the educational sessions will focus on marketing, signage & way finding, complete streets and river corridors, and universal access. Activities being planned after the sessions and lunch are kayak/canoe river tours, hiking, horseback ride, and downtown Milford bus tour. There will be give-a-ways and a raffle. The sub-committee has scheduled their next meeting Wednesday, July 15th, 10 am-12 pm, Proud Lake Recreation Area – Annex Building, if anyone would like to attend. An Awards form was passed out for individual and/or group nominations. Awards will be presented at the Trail Summit. Also, a list of sub-committees suggested at earlier OTAC meetings will be provided for the council to work on.

Oakland County Parks Millage

Stephanie Mackey, Business Development Representative for OCPRC Organizational Management, spoke on the upcoming 2010 millage. At this time, a .2415 mil renewal is being proposed, as the millage expires in 2011. The ballot language is currently being reviewed. We are using a multi-media, social networking approach to educate the public.

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Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Funds—Stimulus Redistribution Money

Sue Julian spoke about the discretionary grant funding (TIGER Funding) and the Redistributed Stimulus money. It's significant and regional for a project that has a large impact, e.g., non-motorized has been pegged. Signage & branding would be another project. \$3 - \$20 million of TIGER Funding is available with an application deadline of August, 2009. Todd Scott reported that Detroit – Woodward Corridor will more than likely apply.

State Parks Funding Update

Todd Scott gave an update on the proposal in legislation asking for a \$10 fee to be added at the time of vehicle registration to help fund the state parks and forests. There hasn't been any taxpayer funding for state parks and forests since 2004. The proposal offers an "opt-out" box on the vehicle registration form for those not wanting to participate. Compliance and monitoring was discussed as well as whether a license tab or windshield sticker would be used. Ten percent of the money will funnel back to the counties for local development. This plan is modeled after the successful legislation in Montana and Washington State. For further information, please visit: www.ourmichiganparks.org.

Announcements/Public Comments

The White House wants to extend the current transportation bill.

The Detroit Greenways coalition has issues with the city on mowing and maintenance of greenways.

The Oakland County Conservation District has a need for trail maintenance using work crews. Sue Wells shared that we (OCPRC) aren't having any problem obtaining our work crews from Pontiac Job Links through Michigan, and it's career-path centered.

<http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us/Employment/JobLinkCareerCenter/tabid/148/Default.aspx>

Kudos to Todd Scott for heading up the Stimulus Block Grant applications.

Stephanie Marchbanks noted that we (OCPRC) have conference calling capability now for up to 11 callers. Please let her know at least two working days before the meeting if you would like to call in.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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NEXT MEETING

The next OTAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices.

Minutes taken by Sue Thibodeau, Administrative Services, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission