



Oakland County Trails Advisory Council

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

Minutes

August 26, 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, Jeff Edwards, Jacy Garrison, Chris Doozan, Stephanie Marchbanks, Dot LaLone, Brian Marzolf, and David Evancoe who introduced Janet Waters who will be attending in his absence, Jenny Frederick, Mindy Milos-Dale, Rich Sulla, Susie Sulla, and Mark Spencer.

Approval of Minutes

Action: Approval of the corrected minutes from June 24, 2009 was moved by Chris Doozan and supported by Kristen Wiltfang. The motion passed on voice vote.

Additions to the Agenda

No additions were added.

Trail Network Update

Paint Creek Trail—Kristen Myers

(No update at this time)

Polly Ann Trail—Troy Farwell

(No update at this time)

Clinton River Trail—Brian Marzolf

Brian reported that they have been quite active with the Fall Classic Bike Ride coming up. They have some issues with the Orchard Lake crossing which they are working on. Downtown construction in Pontiac is moving forward. Brian replied to a question about overgrown brush stating that each community takes care of their own area but if there was a problem their 'Friends' group might resolve the problem.

West Bloomfield Trail—Dave Burley

(No update at this time)

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Lakes Community Trail—Deanna Magee

Update by Kristen Wiltfang that the master plan for the Michigan Airline Railway Trailway was completed. A grant application has been submitted.

Huron Valley Trail—Chris Doozan

They are working with the Road Commission and DNR on the roadways crossings. Pavement markings are positioned in the crossing areas and beacons will rapidly flash when the button is pushed to indicate someone is crossing. They are also working with MDOT on re-construction planned for the I-96 bridge over the trail; soil borings have been taken.

Headwaters Trail—Dot LaLone

This group is working with MDEQ and MDNR on the Fish Lake Road take out. Their plan was re-worked and then re-submitted based on MDEQ's request. They are very excited that the headwaters of the Shiawassee River are being utilized by more people and even festivals are taking place in the area. A horse ride is taking place this coming weekend at Rose Oaks County Park.

Woodward Corridor Trail—Todd Scott

(No update at this time)

I-275 Metro Trail—Jeff Edwards

They have four separate projects they are working on: 1) Michigan Avenue to Hines Drive will have most construction done in 2010. 2) North portion of the trail up to Meadowbrook Road will receive signage and wayfinding improvements; construction will begin next spring. 3) The M-5 extension from 13 Mile to 14 Mile Road is under design with construction also planned for next spring. 4) North of M-5 up to Maple/ C.O.E. Railroad is a new project with CMAQ funding currently going through the approval process.

ADA & Trail Accessibility

Presentation— Alan Buckenmeyer, Rochester Hills

ADA considers trails near roadways as sidewalks. Each group needs to consider not just the trails themselves but also the amenities associated with the trails to accommodate accessibility, such as placement/design of benches, crossing signal buttons, water fountains, parking, etc. Several resources are available including the Road Commission for Oakland County. Surfaces need to be firm and slip resistant with Mr. Buckenmeyer explaining how these are measured. New, better definitions may need to be put in place as innovative transportation devices come into use; personal assistance devices are changing rapidly. Individual entities can develop and set their own rules, but Mr. Buckenmeyer explained it may be difficult to define and then enforce such phrases as 'human powered' or 'non-motorized' to

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completely address issues with the trails. Rules may address 'speed limit' or 'gas' powered and/or you may require a permit for transportation device. Note that you are allowed to ask if a vehicle is required for a person's mobility but you are not allowed to ask why. Mr. Buckenmeyer brought a list of websites for more information.

Safe Routes to School, MTGA Trailways Toolkit, Mid-American Trails and Greenways Conference Update

Presentation – Nancy Krupiarz

Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance – a 501(c) 3 organization, their mission is to get statewide connected trails and assist with policy issues.

- **Connect Michigan Toolkit** – Todd Scott has helped create on-line downloadable resources on constructing and connecting trails; more resources are being added at: library.michigantrails.org. You have the capability to be notified when new resources are added is available if desired. It should be fully functional by the end of 2009. Raising the awareness of this resource with government officials is underway in order to get them on board with this program.
- **Safe Routes to School** – An analysis was completed for all of the schools in Oakland County that looks at the proximity of the school to the major trail system. They are involving schools in their programs to make the process of connecting to a trail easier for students and staff. The program is seeking advocates including Parent-Teacher Organizations in individual communities to promote the program with which Nancy's group can assist. 85 (out of 256) schools in Oakland County are located within ¼ mile of a current or proposed trail, sidepath, or bike lane.
- **The Mid-America Trails & Greenways Conference** will be in Kalamazoo October 25 – 28, 2009. Information about speakers and programs was disseminated.

OTAC—Bylaws Update

Kristen Wiltfang shared information that the Bylaws were being reviewed and edited to be in alignment with the recent re-organization of Oakland County Parks and Recreation. A sub-committee consisting of Kristen Wiltfang, Dot LaLone, Brian Marzolf, and Stephanie Marchbanks will meet after today's meeting to review and bring back to the full committee.

Announcements/Public Comments

Mindy Milos-Dale (Oakland Township) announced that they had had an open house in June which was well received with about 60 people attending. 90% of the comments made were positive! They have a 30-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Highland Township is working on their Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is being very well received. A key emphasis of the plan is connectivity.

Kristen Wiltfang announced the Oakland County PEDS Annual Heritage Conference will be Sept. 10 at the Crofoot in Downtown Pontiac, which will include a downtown walking tour. The Oakland County Trail Summit will be Oct. 8 at Proud Lake Rec Area in Commerce Twp.

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Nancy Krupiarz stated that her office has the Rails to Trails books available.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next OTAC meeting will be determined. Kristen Wiltfang will email everyone to set up the next meeting date.

Minutes taken by Nancy vonKoehnen, Administrative Services, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.