

# OWOSSO

## *Parks & Recreation Commission*



Regular Meeting  
6:00pm Monday, February 24, 2014  
City Council Chambers  
Owosso City Hall

## AGENDA

### *Parks & Recreation Commission*

Monday, February 24, 2014--6:00 PM  
City Hall Council Chambers  
301 West Main Street  
Owosso, MI 48867

**Call to order:**

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll call:**

**Approval of agenda:** February 24, 2014

**Approval of minutes:** January 27, 2014

**Public comments:**

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. January 27, 2014 minutes
3. Fred Meijer CIS Trail information

**Business:**

1. Bentley Park updates
2. Plunge for the Parks
3. Fred Meijer CIS Trail Annual Meeting invitation

**Public comments:**

**Adjournment:**

The City of Owosso will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/ hearing upon seventy-two (72) hours notice to the City of Owosso. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Owosso by writing or calling the following: Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk, 301 W. Main St, Owosso, MI 48867 or at (989) 725-0500. The City of Owosso website is: [www.ci.owosso.mi.us](http://www.ci.owosso.mi.us)



## MEMORANDUM

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301 W. MAIN ▪ OWOSSO, MICHIGAN 48867-2958 ▪ WWW.CI.OWOSSO.MI.US

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DATE: February 18, 2014

TO: Chairman Espich and the Owosso Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Susan Montenegro

RE: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting: February 24, 2014

**The Parks & Recreation Commission shall convene at 6:00pm on Monday, February 24, 2014 in the city council chambers of city hall.** This is a regular meeting, and there will be a planning commission meeting following this meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Items to be discussed at this meeting are Bentley Park Updates and Plunge for the Parks.

If you have any other updates or new information before the meeting, please send it along to myself and the commission. You can call me on my cell phone at 989.890.1394 or email me at [susan.montenegro@ci.owosso.mi.us](mailto:susan.montenegro@ci.owosso.mi.us)

**Please RSVP! See you on the 24th!**

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**January 27, 2014 – 6 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Espich.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**Roll Call** was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

**Members Present:** Chairman Michael Espich; Commissioners Tim Alderman; and Nikki Hathaway.

**Members Absent:** Vice-Chairman Jeff Selbig; and Kristen Woodbury.

**Others Present:** Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development.

**Approve Agenda for January 27, 2014 meeting.**

A motion to approve the agenda for January 27, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and supported by Commissioner Hathaway with the addition of Business Item # 4, the Polar Plunge.

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

**Approve Minutes from November 25, 2013 meeting:**

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2013 meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and supported by Commissioner Hathaway.

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

**Public Comments:** None.

**Board Comments:**

Discussion about starting a non-profit Friends of Owosso Parks and Recreation foundation and getting more people involved with the board. Need to get more creative in reaching other people to work on fund raising; a possible ice rink; and maybe additional splash pads.

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. November 25, 2013 minutes

**Business:**

**1. Bentley Park Review**

Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, reviewed some items about the Bentley Park: inspections are getting done; grants are being closed out by the end of March; and tables and benches will be placed by the splash pad. There was a discussion about security cameras and signs regarding the surveillance. It was mentioned the police department, insurance companies, and 911 should be consulted for further security information. Chairman Espich will be speaking with Chief Lenkart tomorrow.

**2. Disc Golf Status**

Chairman Espich commented that Pete Carsten, Baker College President, serves on the cemetery board where the disc gold course will be. He wants more information on how it will be maintained. Ian Granger and John Beebe are really busy right now with snow removal but are very excited to get going on the project.

**3. DIG – Curwood Castle Park**

Ms. Montenegro described the Downtown Infrastructure Grant of \$695,000 that will be awarded on February 28 in the Council Chambers at 11:30 am. She invited the Parks and Recreation Commission to attend the ceremony as it will also involve areas around the Curwood Castle Park. They will be redoing the parking area by the Curwood Castle, join the CIS trail, and tie into the Armory project. They will also deconstruct the Chamber of Commerce building and move the roof to make a pavilion for the Farmer's Market. They will be working on the retaining walls and make stairs down to the bridge.

Ms. Montenegro suggested the commission check out a couple sites such as grants.gov and grant watch.

**4. Polar Plunge**

Chairman Espich explained the last two years' history of the Polar Plunge to Ms. Montenegro. Commissioner Hathaway enthusiastically asked to take charge of this project. Discussion involved Jerry Hebekeuser and Ben Frederick helping out; a warming tent; needing about 15 people to jump; pledges made ahead of time; possibility of raising money by having people pay **not** to jump in; snacks; shirts; and a couple businesses were mentioned for refreshments / hot beverages. An organizational meeting will be scheduled the week of February 10 and the plunge may be scheduled March 15 or 22.

**Public / Board Comments: None**

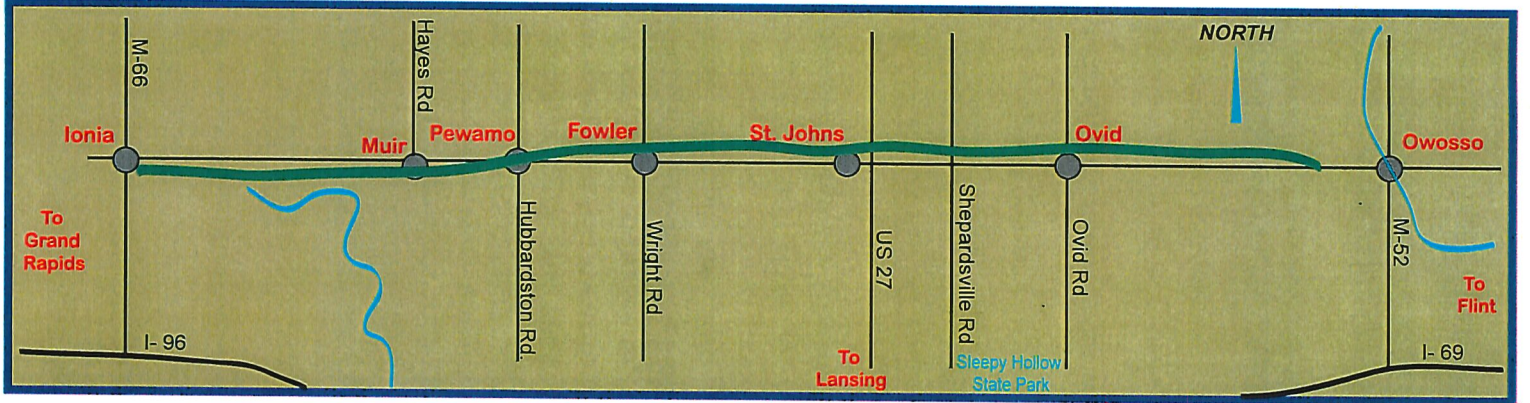
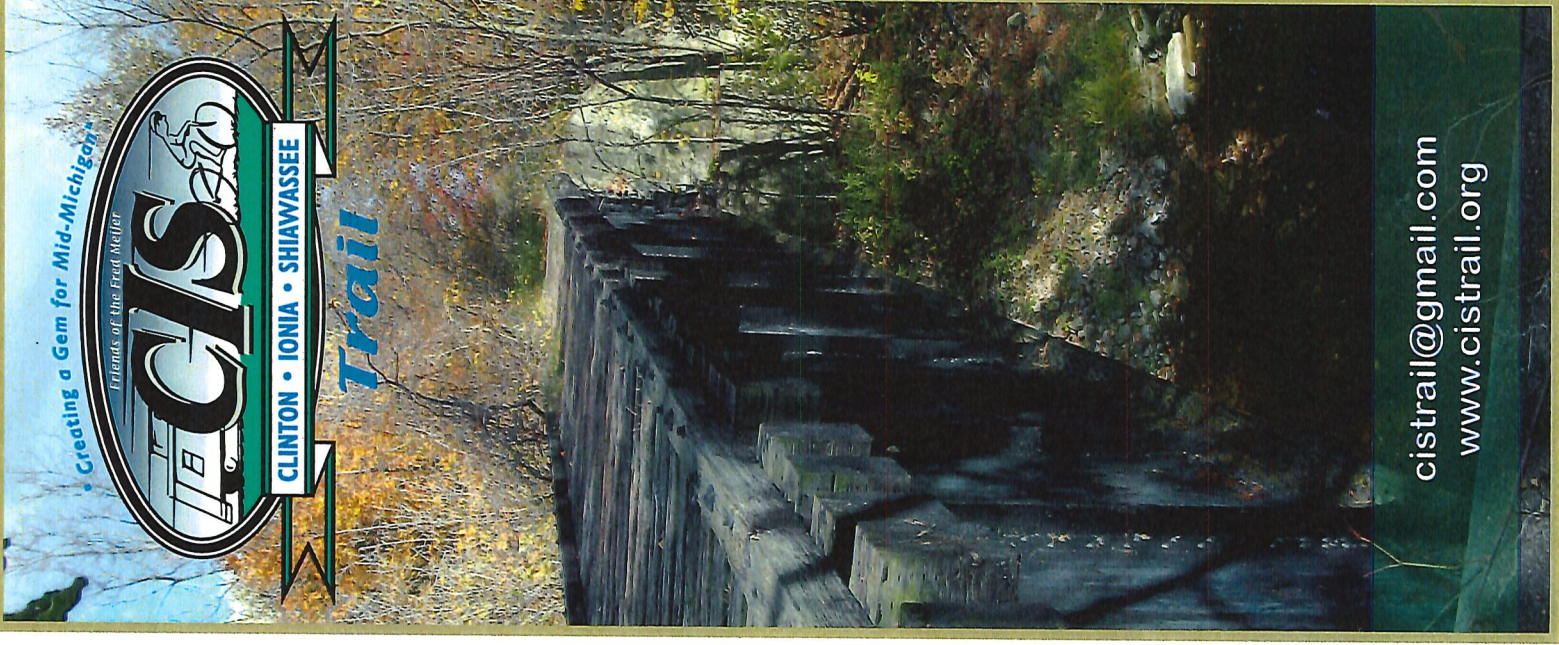
**Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hathaway and was supported by Commissioner Alderman. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Montenegro, Secretary

mms



### Trail Uses

Walking  
Running  
Biking

Cross Country Skiing  
In-Line Skating  
Wheelchair Access

Nature and Bird Watching  
Horseback Riding (where designated)  
Relaxing and Enjoying Nature



Become a

*“Friend”*

Sign me up to become a member of the Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail.

\$5 - Individual

\$10 - Family

Donation - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**  
Friends of the Fred Meijer  
Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail  
We are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization  
Donations are tax deductible

**Mail to:**  
Friends of the Fred Meijer  
Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail  
P.O. Box 274  
St. Johns, Michigan 48879



[cistrail@gmail.com](mailto:cistrail@gmail.com)  
[www.cistrail.org](http://www.cistrail.org)



## OUR MISSION

To promote the creation of a safe, multi-use trail for non-motorized recreation, utilizing the former Central Michigan Railroad corridor between Ionia and Owosso, Michigan.

## WE ARE

The Friends' group was formed by an initiative of the Clinton Area Planning for Intergovernmental Teamwork (CAPIT) in the spring of 1999 to research the possibility of turning the Central Michigan Railroad corridor, unused since 1992, into a recreational trail.

## OUR ROLE

The role of the Friends of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail includes:

- Fund raising for trail development and construction.
- Sponsor clean up days, etc.
- Sponsor promotional events for trail.
- Provide promotional materials and brochures.
- Publish newsletters, issue press releases, etc. on trail developments, construction and events happening on/with trail.
- Provide speakers, where necessary, for communities and club organizations.

## PLAN

Plans are in place for the trail to be part of the Midwest Regional Rail-Trail Network, joining up on the west end with three additional trails. This "super trail", made up of our trail, the Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia Shiawassee Trail, the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trail, the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Trail, and the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail, will soon become the fifth longest rail-trail in the United States at 125 miles. It will be a notable tourism attraction for mid-Michigan as it travels along three different rivers, through two state game areas, and through 16 towns and villages, which, excluding the state game areas, are all spaced about 7 to 10 miles apart.

## PURPOSE

- Opportunity for economic renewal & growth.
- Increased property values.
- Increased tourism to the area.
- Develop "Sense of Community" and the connection it builds.
- Develop a safe place for people to exercise with no worries about traffic.
- School sports teams can train on the trail without the worry of traffic.
- Promote natural wildlife and horticultural programs.

**Trail runs through:  
Woodland • Farmland  
Wetland • Small towns**



## Major Contributors

- Fred Meijer Foundation  
Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance  
Lansing, Michigan [www.michigantrails.org](http://www.michigantrails.org)
- Tri-County Bicycle Association-DALMAC Fund  
Lansing, Michigan



# The Trailblazer

Winter 2014

## (Ground) Breaking News - Rail-Trial Project Issued for Bid

by Annamarie Bauer, Trail Planning Specialist, DNR

Construction bidding for the Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee (CIS) Rail-Trail and the contract award are scheduled for early 2014. Once the weather breaks and contractors are able to mobilize, the long awaited construction for this \$5,280,000 rail-trail project will begin.

The entire state rail-trail from Ionia to Owosso will be under construction during 2014. Paved sections of asphalt surface will occur in each of the five communities along the route connected by 32 miles of crushed limestone surface. Bridge improvements are planned for nine structures located along the 42 mile route. Work will consist of restoration and repair prior to installing new bridge decking and handrails required for recreational trail use. 10% of the bridge maintenance cost (\$50,000) for this project is being funded by The Fred Meijer Mid-West Regional Rail-Trail Maintenance Endowment. Substantial project completion is expected in mid-November 2014!

### Community Support

The balance of the rail-trail project funding was secured in 2013. A special thank you is extended to the counties, townships, cities and villages who have contributed financial support for this project. The local community contribution accounts for just over 2% of the total cost. We would like to say **THANK YOU** to the local units of government who have said **YES** to this rail-trail project.

### \$45,000 Total County Contribution

Clinton, Ionia and Shiawassee

### \$50,000 Total City and Village Contribution

Fowler, Muir, Ovid, Pewamo and St. Johns

### \$30,000 Total Township Contribution

Bingham, Dallas, Ionia, Lyons, Ovid and Owosso

### Safety First

The Department of Natural Resources and the Friends ask for your cooperation during construction. Please stay **OFF** the rail-trail and allow contractors to complete all of their work and until all stop signs are installed at the road intersections. The rail-trail will be officially declared open to the public once construction has been completed and the trail is ready for your enjoyment.

### Look West

Located immediately west another ten miles of state rail-trail, the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail, is under construction. The two projects will connect on the east side of the City of Ionia at Prairie Creek. Construction from Saranac to Ionia (including four miles through the Ionia State Recreation Area) was completed, dedicated and open to the public November 2013. The remaining portion of the project which will include a pedestrian bridge over M-66 in Ionia, also scheduled for 2014 construction. When both projects are complete you will be able to travel uninterrupted from Saranac to Owosso.

Happy Trails!

## News from the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority

by Lynn Mason, Chairperson, MWMTA

As the winter months settle in, the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority (MWMTA) continues its responsibilities concerning this rail trail system.

It is exciting to watch as more sections become developed. Bids have gone out for other sections and work should commence as spring nears.

Distribution and over-sight of the Fred Meijer Endowment dollars is one of the Authorities' main responsibilities. In regards to the budget, 2014 brings more focus on planning for long term maintenance, for example, bridges. There are more than 20 bridges within the 125 mile corridor. Also, as sections of the trail become developed, there are more legal type issues to deal with. For example, lease agreements, liability issues, and safety standards must be developed. All of this must be taken care of under the "administrative" category.

We have formed a committee on Minimum Standards. Each Friends group has appointed two members. As this group begins its work, we look forward to a document that sets standards for all to use so that we have a safe and sustainable trail system.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS ...

...are open to the public. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Locations are rotated between the three counties. If you would like to attend one of our meetings, please check our website ([www.cistrail.org](http://www.cistrail.org)) or contact Kathy Simon at 989/593-3642.

## MISSION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER CLINTON-IONIA-SHIAWASSEE TRAIL

To promote the creation of a safe, multi-use trail for non-motorized recreation utilizing the former Central Michigan Railroad corridor between Ionia and Owosso, Michigan.

## THE BOARD OF THE FRED MEIJER CIS TRAIL

Our current board members are:

### Ionia County:

- Janice Gustafson, Treasurer (2014)
- Guy Buckingham (2015)
- Dave Weber (2016)

### Clinton County:

- Marshall Baker (2014)
- Kathy Simon, Secretary (2015)
- Mike Madden (2016)

### Shiawassee County:

- Rick Morris, Vice Chairperson (2014)
- Ardelle Rodgers (2015)
- Avery Weaver, Chairperson (2016)

[www.cistrail.org](http://www.cistrail.org)  
[cistrail@gmail.com](mailto:cistrail@gmail.com)



Be sure to "like" us on our brand new Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/fmcistrail](http://www.facebook.com/fmcistrail)



## Bike Ride for the Railway

In 2013 the Friends Group partnered with the Clinton County Arts Council for a very successful Bike Ride for the Railway. Sixty one riders showed up at the train depot in St. Johns on a beautiful fall Sunday in late September, coming from as far away as Kalamazoo, Ypsilanti, Albion, Reed City and Clinton Township. D&K Bikes donated advertisements, signage and food and water for the SAG stops and Main Street Cafe donated meals for all bicyclists as they finished the ride. The Friends of the FMCIS provided numerous volunteers and received a generous portion of the profits from the ride.

**We are excited to announce that we will once again be partnering with the Clinton County Arts Council to host the third annual Bike Ride for the Railway to be held on Sunday, September 28, 2014!** In 2014 the ride will feature a portion of the FMCIS Rail Trail between Scott Road and DeWitt Road in St. Johns (which may be completed by the date of the ride). Four routes will be available for all experience levels, ranging from a one to five mile loop to a sixty mile loop. As in the past, bicyclists will be supported by SAG drivers and SAG stops will be provided along the various routes with food, drinks and porta potties. Sparrow Clinton Hospital has agreed to underwrite a portion of the expenses. Arrangements for other corporate sponsors are in the works.

Michigan is fast becoming a destination place for bicycle rides and tours. So come join in the fun and raise \$\$'s for the trail!



## Board Elections

As in the past, three three-year terms for directors are included on the ballot for board elections, one in each of the three counties. Terms for elected directors begin in April of 2014. Members that paid dues in 2013 are eligible to vote in the 2014 elections. Each level of membership enables one vote at the annual election.

Elections will take place at the Annual Membership Meeting on March 12, 2014. Ballots may be brought to the annual membership meeting, or returned by mail to: Friends of the FMCIS Trail, PO Box 274, St. Johns, MI 48879. Ballots will be accepted until fifteen minutes after the scheduled starting time of the Annual Meeting. Ballots received by mail after March 12 will not be accepted.

## Come Celebrate With Us!

You are cordially invited to attend a celebration of the upcoming construction of the Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail!

This year's annual membership meeting will be an event not to be missed. It will be held at the award winning, newly constructed Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizer Headquarters in St. Johns on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 7 pm. For those interested, a tour of the facilities will be conducted at 6:15 pm.

Our keynote speaker is Dan Balice, mayor of the City of Ionia. Mayor Balice is a long-time trail advocate, as Ionia has experienced the benefits of a great trail for several years. In November of 2013 a dedication and grand opening ceremony was held in Ionia for the Grand River Valley Rail Trail (GRVRT), which was planned, engineered and constructed in record time. The GRVRT will connect to the western endpoint of the FMCIS Trail and extend the trail system from Ionia to Saranac and points beyond.

*Can't wait to see you there!*

## Pewamo Celebrates Grand Opening of the Trailhead Welcome Center

The Village of Pewamo is definitely a forward looking community. And definitely looking forward to the completion of the FMCIS Trail and the countless visitors it will bring to visit and enjoy their lovely little village.

On Saturday, September 7, 2013, the Village of Pewamo celebrated the grand opening of their new Trailhead Welcome Center at their annual Block Party. This new trailhead includes a picnic area, restrooms and historical artifacts. The building was designed to mimic the looks of the original Grand Trunk train depot. Built in the 1800's and last used in 1945, the original depot was removed in the 1970's. The new Welcome Center was the brain child and vision of local residents and was built with private donations and DNR Trust Fund grants.

Good job Pewamo! We look forward to more grand opening events along the trail.

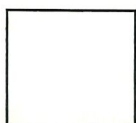
## 2014 Annual Membership Dues

The Friends of the FMCIS have minimal annual membership dues which help us pay for trail promotion and development, maintenance and development of our website, and of course, publication of our newsletter and brochures. The 2014 annual membership dues remain at the same low cost as prior years: Individual - \$5.00; Family - \$10.00; and Corporate - \$100.00. Membership forms are enclosed with this newsletter. Receipts will be provided upon request. (As a 501c3 organization, your donations may be tax deductible.)



Be sure to "like" us on our brand new Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/fmcistrail](http://www.facebook.com/fmcistrail)

ADDRESS LABEL



FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER CLINTON-IONIA-SHIWASSEE TRAIL

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P.O. BOX 274