

**Equestrian Trails & Facilities &
Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee Minutes
Committee Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation (NBCPR)
Minutes of the Combined Committee Meeting held October 18, 2004, 7:15 p.m.,
at Mims-Scottsmoor Library**

Equestrian Trails & Facilities Referendum Committee

Members Present

Jennifer Hill
Sabrina Jeffers
Kay Miller
Mary Page, Vice Chair
Carol Thompson
Winnie Woods

Members Absent

Donna McCone, Chair-Excused
Susan Canada
Connie Carswell

Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee

Members Present

Lee Bird
Patti Franzetta
Doris Geis
Andy Root
Lorene Shafer

Members Absent

Katherine Bonnici
Shelly Kipp

NBCPR Present

Gigi Henkel, Liaison/Ex-Officio

Parks & Recreation Staff Present

Charles S. Nelson, Parks and Recreation Director
Marsha Cantrell, Parks Support Services Manager
Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Mary Page called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 19, 2004, were approved at the motion by Lorene Shafer, second Lee Bird

AYE: Bird, Root, Franzetta, Shafer, Geis, Page, Miller, Hill

NAY: Jeffers

Carried 8-1

Ms. Jeffers had been out of town and did not have an opportunity to read the minutes.

III. STAFF REPORTS—Mr. Nelson reported the department is just coming up to speed from the hurricanes where staff worked shelters. There was about \$10 million damage in parks.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Potential Properties

1. Staff Reports—Mr. Nelson stated that at the end of the last meeting attention was focused at parcels of 20 acres or more. The maps distributed are from aerials and property records and may contain buildings. Because of the hurricanes, staff was not able to visit the sites.
2. Committee Discussion—Lee Bird requested reviewing the potential properties one by one.
 - Ceratto—only improved access is from Blounts Ridge, total of 198 acres in three tracks of 122, 67, and 9.5 acres.
 - Richmond 15—Andy Root stated it may be under contract. The developer looking at that has been talking to Scottsmoor Community Association. It was noted the property on US 1 may not be under contract. Mr. Nelson stated the map is showing two tracts— 190 acres & 57 acres—along US 1. Lee Bird expressed that he really likes the 57 acres along US 1.
 - Mancini—In response to an inquiry from Lorene Shafer, Blaise Mancini confirmed the property is under contract.
 - Millennium—1222 acres, road to left is I-95, right border is the old railroad. There is no access road. Mr. Nelson suggested it might be part of golf course project—Walkabout or part of that ownership.
 - Storey—109 acres on Burkholm Road which is paved, west of US 1. Mary Page remarked it is beautiful piece of property with a big home. It is about a mile off US 1, at the railroad, and borders International.
 - Chauvin—69 acres, closer to US 1, but doesn't border trail. It was established the yellow spotted areas are wet.
 - Kent—30 acres, at end of Burkholm
 - Brevard Investments—65 acres. Lee Bird asked why this is on the list. Mr. Nelson stated that it probably is joint ownership. It can be eliminated.
 - Morehead—34 acres, in middle of Brevard Investments
 - Brevard County—48 acres, behind southbound rest area on I-95, accessed by Hog Valley Road. Mr. Nelson believes there are utilities on the property. Lee Bird noted it looks over 50% wet. Mr. Nelson stated he recalls a small package plan.
 - Hawkins—32 acres, access from Blounts Ridge and turn right on Patty. Appears to be 50% wet.
 - Large—22 acres, access via Burkholm, Brighton, Windsor, Wellington into property. The trail is at the corner of Aurantia and I-95. The property looks like it is over 50% wet.

Walter Pine stated the committee will want more than one entry and exit if there is a fire and a large activity.

Lee Bird stated he crossed off Brevard Investments Property through Large Property as having no interest. He checked Richmond 15, Storey, Chauvin, ranking Richmond 15 first, Chauvin second, and Storey third due to proximity of US 1. The Richmond 15 property could have multiple entries. Andy Root noted it would have utilities. Mr. Bird stated he didn't know about

water, but if the County water is run to the housing development in Scottsmoor, it may not be necessary to drill wells.

3. Public Input

- Diane DeLano stated the Richmond 15 land is nice and dry with some bog areas. Ms. DeLano confirmed for Mr. Bird that the bog areas correspond with the map. She has also ridden the Ceratto property and it holds a lot of water along the railroad and I-95.
- Walter Pine stated it is premature to chose anything until more is known about the property. Also the question regarding separating should be made before choosing any properties as priorities are different. Sabrina Jeffers noted the committees are still together.
- Lorene Shafer stated she would want to take a visual tour.
- Thelma Roper questioned how people would access the trail, noting the properties are east of I-95 in general.
- Walter Pine stated the committee should decide what is most important, size, location, etc. to have priorities to make a selection.

Mr. Bird stated the need to see if the property is accessible, and if so with a currently improved, or could be improved, road. He thinks the property should be currently accessible on a paved road. Ms. Jeffers agreed it needs to have good access, but doesn't want to just say no depending on type of existing access and how much it would take to make it a good access. Mr. Bird stated the community center definitely needs to be on a paved road. Discussion ensued on the additional cost of property on paved, compared unpaved roads and the cost to improve roads.

In response to an inquiry regarding the trail head, Mr. Nelson stated there is none yet. The trail is the old railroad right of way SE to NW and crosses I-95 at Aurantia.

Carol Thompson requested a review of which have paved roads and which have access to the trail.

- Ceratto borders the trail on west with access via paved Blounts Ridge which Mr. Bird believes would be ideal for equestrians but is not a good location for the community center.

Walter Pine suggested one property that suits both might be found. He restated determining priorities, and recommended using a numerical point system to evaluate properties.

Diane DeLano asked if a bridge could be put over I-95. Mr. Bird indicated that would be unrealistic on a federal road.

Thelma Roper noted the equestrian trail is significantly long and while a major trail head is needed, stations along the way for water and inclement weather are also needed. She noted the committee is not looking at multiple stops. Mr. Nelson explained that when the Referendum was first created, the original concept was to get access to the state-owned lands managed by St. Johns River Water Management District. The trail itself is a new addition because it was not part of the original discussion, but brings additional funding sources. The original concept was to build a place to trailer, unload, and ride state-owned property. The trails program has funding sources to address what Ms. Roper was mentioning. That is not intended for this funding. Mr.

Bird stated it was his understanding the purpose of the equestrian committee is to create a place to get to the trail, not develop the trail.

Andy Root noted ten different people are talking ten different things. He recommend going ahead with agenda and if the choice is to separate the committees, it does not mean the committees can't work together. The equestrians could pick out pieces of property, and the community center committee can do the same thing.

Carol Thompson stated she would like to continue listing which properties have access.

- Richmond 15–no trail access. It is Mr. Bird's first choice for a community center.
- Mancini Property–currently under contract.
- Millennium–Walkabout
- Storey–Paved, electricity, on trail, less than two miles from US 1, two entrances. This would work for both. It is Mr. Bird's third choice for the community center.
- Chauvin–Mr. Bird's second choice for the community center. It is not on the trail–equestrians would have to walk down Burkholm. Diane DeLano pointed out there is not much shoulder.
- Kent–west end of Burkholm, far from trail and US 1, is not feasible for either.

Mr. Nelson stated he had hoped to narrow the list down to three properties. Staff can visit the sites, identify roads as paved or unpaved, multiple access, utilities–water, sewer power, access to trail, proximity to major roads, and list any environmental constraints–wetland issues, width of right of way leading to trail.

Lorene Shafer stated Burkholm would be a good road. Mary Page reported the Storey property is very high and dry. Mr. Nelson suggested staff contact the property owners to see if they want to sell all or part of the property.

The other members of the Mims/Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee agreed with Mr. Bird's assessment of Richmond 15, Chauvin and Storey properties.

4. Committee Recommendation–None

B. Separating Committtees

1. Committee Discussion

Lee Bird stated the two committees definitely need to separate. They have too different ideas. He agreed with Mr. Root's idea that, if the committees do separate, it's not written in stone they can't come back together later. The trail access is very far down the list for priority for community center because it is away from the population.

2. Public Input

Blaise Mancini stated that in the last two years, property values have been going up. He suggested the committees separate. He urged the committee members to bring a sense of urgency to the land acquisition process.

Mr. Pine noted no officers were chosen for the community center committee. A smaller committee has been made subject to a larger committee. It is important the community center committee to have officers, and have equal share in voting. The important thing is to get the best for the community.

3. Committee Recommendation

Motion by Lorene Shafer, seconded by Lee Bird, to separate the two committees with separate officers and arrange meetings together in the future.

AYE: Bird, Root, Franzetta, Shafer, Geis, Page, Miller, Hill, Jeffers, Thompson, Woods

NAY: None

Carried 11-0

Discussion prior to the vote included Mr. Root questioning what he brought to the NBCPR about meeting separately. Mr. Lane explained the joint committee was to make a decision and then the community center committee would meet following this meeting. Ms. Jeffers made it known that everyone on both of the committees decided to join as one committee, and no one was forced to do so. Mr. Nelson stated he thinks the committees have come to the decision to separate, but needed to get there as a group. Mary Page stated she learned a long time ago, the more heads you have working on a project, the easier it will be to solve problems.

In response to a question about officers for the equestrian committee, Mr. Nelson noted the chairman and vice chairman are both from the equestrian committee.

V. NEW BUSINESS–None.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT–Heard under Old Business.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Equestrian Trails and Facilities Referendum Committee meeting will be Monday, November 15, 6 p.m. at the Mims-Scottsmoor Library.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at the motion by Winnie Woods, second by Kay Miller.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Page, Vice Chair

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