

Equestrian Trails & Facilities Referendum Committee
Committee Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation (NBCPR)
Minutes of the Meeting held December 13, 2004 at 6:00 p.m., at Mims-Scottsmoor Library

Members Present

Donna McCone, Chairman
Susan Canada
Jennifer Hill (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
Sabrina Jeffers
Kay Miller
Mary Page, Vice Chairman
Carol Thompson
Winnie Woods

Members Absent

Connie Carswell—Excused

Parks & Recreation Staff Present

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McCone called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL—As reflected above. Connie Carswell was excused because of a meeting conflict with another equestrian committee.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 18, 2004, were approved at the motion by Sabrina Jeffers, second by Susan Canada.

AYE: Canada, Jeffers, McCone, Miller, Page, Thompson, Woods

NAY: None

Carried 7-0

IV. STAFF REPORTS—None

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Potential Properties

Chuck Nelson stated the need to refocus on what the committee wants to try to accomplish because that could change the nature of the properties looked at. Mr. Nelson reviewed the process as follows: When the Referendum was put together, the NBCPR considered the need for a place for trail rides. As a result, the Referendum includes \$230,000 for land acquisition, some trail improvements and rest rooms. The Equestrian and Mims/Scottsmoor Community Center committees were brought together to see if there could be any economy of scale. Suitable property for that purpose couldn't be found adjacent to Maytown Trail. Mr. Nelson reported he spoke with Barbara Myers who indicated the State is still in active negotiation with the railroad for purchase of the trail right of way. The Miami Corporation is not fighting the acquisition at this time.

The Miami Corporation doesn't claim ownership of a major portion of the trail in Brevard County which takes some of the impact off. Sabrina Jeffers stated heard that one of the homeowners along the Maytown trail in Volusia County says it isn't going to happen. Mr. Nelson stated that the railroad wants to sell their right of way. When it was mentioned that some property owners don't want to give access through their property, Chairman McCone stated it is a benefit to limit access to the trail. Discussion ensued.

Jennifer Hill arrived 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Nelson noted that all that is on the original list can't be accomplished.

Sabrina Jeffers asked if any grant money would be available. Mr. Nelson stated that can be attempted, but it is not as easy as it sounds. Many grants allow only one project per County. It is difficult to plan on an acquisition grant with any certainty.

Ms. Jeffers inquired if more money is used for land acquisition, could additional money be obtained for arenas and such things. Mr. Nelson stated that concept would need to be taken back to the NBCPR if the committee wants to spend all the money on land acquisition. A source of money would need to be projected for other items. Access to the trail is needed. Maybe just the parking could be done at this time, which could make getting additional land possible.

Carol Thompson noted that some of the State forests have the property and start having events which raise money for bath houses, pumps, electricity, etc.

Chairman McCone noted that Buck Lake and Big and Little Econ are primitive, but over the years rails and temporary corrals appear.

Carol Thompson stated that rest rooms with running water would be helpful and noted that if it is a small property, events couldn't be held. Ms. Jeffers stated that if more land is purchased, possibly it could be improved in the future.

Carol Thompson noted that trail improvement will come from the State Rails-to-Trails program. All the committee needs to do is to get a trail head.

Susan Canada spoke for more going towards land at first. She would also like to see some type of small port-o-let.

Mr. Nelson noted that St. Johns River Water Management District and Brevard County have participated in acquisitions at Buck Lake, and suggested looking at purchasing adjacent to Buck Lake. Chairman McCone stated that Buck Lake already has good riding access.

Chairman McCone stated she hadn't thought much about another project and asked if there is another reason besides the properties already examined in this area to think about other concepts. Mr. Nelson responded that it would open up additional lands for potential acquisition at a more favorable price, noting there is not a lot of high quality properties in the narrow corridor of the trail.

Susan Canada reported she has looked at property for sale along Buck Lake and found it was

fairly expensive and low. Mr. Nelson stated staff hasn't look at that, but would defer to Susan's experience.

Chairman McCone asked if there are any other properties along the trail that have not been considered. It was noted the Mancini Property is off the market. Mr. Nelson responded there would be the same problem of a large enough contiguous area. Ms. Thompson stated the property needs to be where there is permanent guaranteed access. Mr. Nelson stated it (Buck Lake) is public ownership and is about as guaranteed as can be.

Mr. Nelson displayed a map of public land including Buck Lake which is probably about a mile south of Aurantia where the trail comes to the west side. Winnie Woods stated County maps show that International goes all the way through. Mr. Nelson reported that on the maps he has, International dead ends at the NE corner of the Storey property.

Mr. Nelson stated the key thing if wanting staff to take a look at property adjacent to Buck Lake area is that it be close enough to the trail. Buck Lake is about a mile from the trail.

Ms. Jeffers asked about property between Latimar and Glenn at Folsom, owned by Brevard County. Mr. Nelson reported it is just a right of way. Ms. Jeffers inquired if the properties at the trail are all purchased by Walkabout, noting 15 acres of J.J. Parrish Jr. Trust 21 35 07 00 253, and 36.95 acres of Robi Roberts Trustee 21 35 07 00 250 on both sides of the trail. Mr. Nelson stated that area dropped off the list because it wasn't large enough and was too far south for joint use which isn't a problem at this point. Staff will readdress that.

Ms. Thompson inquired what other requirements the committee needs to set aside money for—restrooms or port-o-let. Mr. Nelson responded, if the property with access is acquired, some things can be done in house. However, there won't be funding to do heavy infrastructure such as wells. Ms. Thompson noted the need for at least non-potable water. Mr. Nelson stated a contract can be made to sink a non-potable well, but electricity to power it could be a huge expense. Mr. Nelson stated that even if all the money is spent on land, it may be possible in time to add improvements. Mr. Nelson stated the acquisition of the rail to trails is the critical element. The development of the trail is an easier process.

Chairman McCone stated the committee can now focus on simple access. Ms. Thompson inquired of the minimum acreage and minimum requirements. Chairman McCone stated she wants to hear what is available and expand the southern boundary at least to SR 46. Mr. Nelson stated he would put a 10-acre minimum. Ms. Thompson stated it doesn't have to be a paved road, just access and turning room. Ms. Jeffers stated 10 acres is a bare minimum.

Mr. Nelson stated his staff would look for 10 acres minimum and any access and utility issues. Chairman McCone suggested Parrish as the southern boundary.

B. Correction on Minutes of July 19, 2004

The minutes of July 19, 2004, were amended at the request of Judy Inman to include Gigi Henkel as present. Motion by Mary Page, seconded by Sabrina Jeffers.

AYE: Canada, Hill, Jeffers, McCone, Miller, Page, Thompson, Woods

NAY: None

Carried 8-0

John Pine, 2299 Heritage Drive, Titusville, noted the lands being looked at close to Glenn are quite accessible and being orange groves, there is probably a well and power.

Jim Liakus, 3575 Sable Palm Lane Apartment G, Titusville, and with Democracy for America, asked if it would be possible to look at partnerships for facility improvements.

James Sloan, 5420 James Lane, Mims, inquired if land with buildings is being excluded, noting such land has utilities. Chairman McCone responded, only in relation to cost. Mr. Nelson stated there is no opposition to land with buildings, however the properties being discussed are homesteads and the probability of someone selling when the property is not on the market is the question.

VI. NEW BUSINESS—None

VII. PUBLIC INPUT—Heard earlier in meeting.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was set for February 21, 2005, at 6 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at motion by Susan Canada, seconded by Carol Thompson.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McCone, Chairman

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