

**Equestrian Trails & Facilities Referendum Committee**  
Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation  
Meeting of February 21, 2005, 6:00 p.m., at the Mims-Scottsmoor Library

Committee Members Present

Sabrina Jeffers, Chairman pro tempore  
Connie Carswell  
Kay Miller  
Carol Thompson  
Winnie Woods

Committee Members Absent-Excused

Donna McCone, Chairman  
Susan Canada  
Jennifer Hill  
Mary Page, Vice Chair

Staff Present

Charles S. Nelson, Parks & Recreation Director  
Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager  
Michael E. Barnes, Recreation Superintendent  
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Sabrina Jeffers was elected chairman pro tempore by acclamation, after which she called the meeting order at 6:25 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

As listed above. There was an accident on I-95 that delayed persons coming from the South and may have caused some committee members to miss the meeting, therefore no absentees were declared unexcused. Susan Canada called earlier saying she would be late.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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**Motion by Carol Thompson, seconded by Winnie Woods, to approve the minutes of December 13, 2004, with a clarification on page 2 by adding "Rails-to-Trails program" to her statements regarding potential grants.**

**AYE: Carswell, Jeffers, Miller, Thompson, Woods**

**NAY: None**

**Carried 5-0**

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Later in the meeting, Judy Inman requested the minutes be corrected as follows:

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**Motion by Carol Thompson, seconded by Winnie Woods, to correct the legal description of the Roberts property on page 2 of the minutes of December 13, 2004, to 21 35 07 00 250**

**AYE: Carswell, Jeffers, Miller, Thompson, Woods**

**NAY: None**

**Carried 5-0**

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#### IV. STAFF REPORTS–None

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

Potential Properties–Chuck Nelson gave an update on the Rails-to-Trails program. Miami Corporation has agreed to a realignment, and to talk about a purchase and exchange to create a trail through their property. What they are proposing will avoid building bridges in some places. Florida East Coast Railway is negotiating with them.

Miami Corporation, owner of a large area near Buck Lake, wants to vacate right of ways as a part of mitigation that could become part of Buck Lake. There is additional property they want to vacate. On Thursday, the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) program is looking to acquire some of the Miami Corporation property, so eventually there may be a large area for riding and public access. If that gets on the list of the land the County is looking to acquire, staff will look at that and work with Miami Corporation with mitigation. The SJRWMD has indicated riding would be a consistent use of land at Buck Lake. Mr. Nelson reported Commissioner Scarborough suggested waiting another meeting or so to see what happens on ownership.

Sabrina Jeffers inquired of the access. Mr. Nelson stated there would have to be focus on the ownership holdings between SR 46 to the County line. He stated it is known the Miami Corporation is looking to use land as mitigation.

Sabrina Jeffers inquired how EELs would feel about trails and horse trailers. Mr. Nelson replied that because EELs is also part of Parks and Recreation, the committees have looked at horseback riding and trails activities as a consistent use and horse trailers are not a problem at Malabar Scrub. Ms. Jeffers inquired how that would affect building arenas, etc. Mr. Nelson reported there may be some parcels that may already be disturbed or cleared that EELs wouldn't want to buy that the Referendum money could buy. There was a similar situation in the South Area on the beach. Connie Carswell questioned if that would be allowed. Mr. Nelson replied that on disturbed land on the edges of EELs land it would make a lot of sense. If EELs is looking at 1000 acres, part of it might be looked at for this Referendum project.

Sabrina Jeffers mentioned the committee had talked about acquisition now and improvements later and asked if that would still be possible. Mr. Nelson suggested that would be better known as ownership and available land around the edges is known. Referendum money would have to be used to purchase the pieces used for those purposes. The arena would be on the Referendum piece, and trail riding on the EELs' piece. He stated it is known for sure mitigation is happening. He will take an immediate look at the area of mitigation. Mr. Nelson stated that if acquisition for trail riding is achieved, the Referendum will have been accomplished.

Mr. Nelson suggested scheduling a meeting for next month, when he will know the decision of the Board of County Commissioners, the mitigation process, and ownership adjacent to those properties, and look at the Parrish and Roberts properties.

Carol Thompson spoke of fund raising events for improvements at Goethe State Forest, SW of Gainesville, and reported O'Leno State Park had similar events to bring in money for

improvements. There are regional and national organizations that will contribute grant money for trail improvements. Buck Lake area would be good for that.

VI. NEW BUSINESS–None

VII. PUBLIC INPUT–None

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for March 21, 6 p.m., at the Mims-Scottsmoor Library.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m., at the motion by Connie Carswell, seconded by Carol Thompson.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabrina Jeffers, Chairman pro tempore

jbi

Mr. Nelson stated the maps he intended to show at the meeting would be mailed. Marsha Cantrell was bringing them to the meeting and was delayed due to the accident on I-95. (Carswell and Jeffers were given their maps by Ms. Cantrell as they were leaving.)