

Equestrian Trails & Facilities Referendum Committee

Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation (NBCPR)
Meeting & Tour of March 25, 2006, 9 a.m., at North Area Parks Operations in Titusville

Members Present

Donna McCone, Chairman
Sabrina Jeffers
Kay Miller
Mary Page, Vice Chair
Winnie Woods

Members Absent

Susan Canada–Excused
Connie Carswell–Excused
Jennifer Hill–Excused
Carol Thompson–Excused

NBCPR Liaison

Gigi Henkel–Absent

County Staff Present

Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McCone called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Absentees were excused.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sabrina Jeffers requested a clarification on her comment regarding why the Committee was formed to read: Sabrina Jeffers stated she thought what this Committee was formed to deal with ~~has nothing to do with~~ was Rails-to-Trails, ~~but~~ and to build a trail head.

Motion by Kay Miller, seconded by Winnie Woods, to approve the minutes as changed.

AYE: Jeffers, McCone, Miller, Page, Woods

NAY: None

Carried 5-0

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Lane reported he spoke with Peter Henn who is willing to possibly attend the next meeting. Mr. Henn told Mr. Lane this is not something that is normally done, but he would need a proposal.

Mr. Miller reported he spoke with someone at Salt Lake and might be willing to do an organized trail ride on April 22. He also suggested seeing if Fish and Wildlife might be receptive to a trail head. Chairman McCone commented there is a nice paved turnaround but the area is very wet. The Millers indicated it isn't that wet. Kay Miller noted it doesn't connect to Rails-to-Trails. Mr. Miller suggested if Buck Lake doesn't work out, it could be a backup plan.

V. NEW BUSINESS–None.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT–None.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Chairman McCone reported the Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee suggested switching meeting times with this Committee. That committee is further along with donated land. Also it is lighter later so equestrians can get barn chores done. The meeting time can be revisited in the fall or winter.

Motion by Kay Miller, seconded by Winnie Woods, to change meeting time to 7 p.m. at the request of the Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee.

AYE: Jeffers, McCone, Miller, Page, Woods

NAY: None

Carried 5-0

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, at 7 p.m.

VIII. RECESS FOR PARK TOUR

Mr. Lane explained, due to Government in the Sunshine, an Assistant County Attorney suggested recessing, taking the tour, then coming back to announced meeting place for additional comments. Sabrina Jeffers cannot attend the tour, but will return if possible for the continuation of the meeting. Mr. Lane stated Committee members are not to discuss the project or what they see during the tour until back in the meeting. Pens and pads of paper were furnished for note taking.

Mr. Lane explained handouts of Spring/Summer Leisure Action brochure, maps and information on each site to be visited.

Chairman McCone stated the tour was to see what has been done previously by the County to form trail heads and see the possibilities within budget, amenities, likes and dislikes, i.e. rail height, etc.

Motion by Kay Miller, seconded by Winnie Woods, to recess and reconvene if there is a quorum.

AYE: Jeffers, McCone, Miller, Page, Woods

NAY: None

Carried 5-0

The meeting recessed at 9:22 a.m. for the park tour.

IX. PARK TOUR

- A. Malabar Scrub Sanctuary
- B. St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park
- C. Micco Scrub Sanctuary

X. RECONVENE FOR COMMENTS ON TOUR

The meeting reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

Chairman McCone opened the floor to discussion and comments on the sites visited from Committee members and public present.

Malabar Scrub Sanctuary

Winnie Woods commented:

- Liked concrete block restrooms with sky light and handicap accessibility which is important.
- Easy to reach with room to park a horse trailer.
- No trail map was posted, but there were trail markers.
- Trail was wide enough for two horses, had benches and a kiosk with description of flora and fauna.

Kay Miller comments:

- Some kiosks have maps of trails designated by color.

- Staging area was gravel and a short distance to concrete from staging area to where to take the horse. Trail went off to the right just past the gate.
- Trails were nice, sand, but not real deep.

Chairman McCone comments:

- It was nicely laid out to reach the parking area from the entrance.
- It gave an idea for size of staging area in a multi-use facility.
- The horse facility on the other side was interesting. Design was not very thrilling; had a double rail. It gave an idea of lumber needed and roofs. There was a fire pit and water tanks. The parking was more trailer friendly. Wooden rails, uprights, cross rails.
- There should be plenty of budget with \$230,000 for what was seen today. Existing public sites are being considered.

Someone commented the last area visited was primitive with a water pump.

Sabrina Jeffers asked what things weren't desirable. Response was:

- One area lacked shade, with only three trees which one trailer took up.
- Lack of adequate parking. Need room to maneuver trailers.

Heidy Dondero, 6548 Windover Way, Titusville, inquired if a large part of the \$230,000 would be spent on bathrooms. Chairman McCone noted that could range from portable toilets up. Mr. Lane noted there is a concrete prefab handicap accessible restroom facility with single stalls, men's and women's, at about \$40,000 plus installation costs which would include cost for plumbing and electricity. In response to further inquiry from Ms. Dondero, it was stated that only construction items will have to come from the budget. Maps, etc., come from other funding.

Sabrina Jeffers inquired about cost difference between prefab concrete restrooms and block restrooms at Sand Point Park. Mr. Lane reported the newer constructed concrete restrooms such as are at Rotary Riverfront Park are about \$140,000.

George Miller stated the restroom facility is a good idea, but suggested concentrating on a piece of property and if more money is needed, grants could be sought, and poker runs and obstacle trail rides can be organized to fund paddocks, stalls, showers which are nice to have, but are not a necessity.

Chairman McCone stated different sites are being looked at. Today's purpose was to compare different things to learn what it will take, which Ms. McCone found to be less than what she had anticipated.

St. Sebastian River State Park

Mr. Miller's choice would be the next to the last place looked at with the three trailers (St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park). It would cost less than \$5,000 to put in what was seen. Winnie Woods talked to the people there and found they seemed to like it very well. One of the campers who travels the Florida Trail Trotters all over the state said less is more. Keep it simple as they like to camp on the trails and are not interested in the extra things. That place had the silver bathroom and Mr. Miller asked about the comparative price. Terry stated that was a compost restroom, but he didn't know the cost.

Terry Lane stated he wrote out some needs mentioned during discussion as follows:

- Definitely need shade
- Need parking
- Need space/area
- Need restrooms
- Paddocks
- Water

Micco Scrub Sanctuary

It was noted there is basically nothing at Micco—just a green space parking.

Kay Miller commented she feels all the creature comforts are not needed to go camping and riding. She would like something where she can take care of her horse such as water and a safe place for the horse. Fancy landscaping and fancy fences are not needed. Most people have their own camping gear, trailers with a place to sleep, shower, and carry water. Basically that is all that is needed. Clean up can be done at home. A restroom is a must, as are good stalls, good fence, and water.

Chairman McCone reviewed at the next meeting it hoped there will be a representative from the St. Johns River Water Management District regarding Buck Lake, and to look at Salt Lake. As to Rails-to-Trails, Mr. Lane will invite Barbara Meyer to the next meeting as she has all the information.

Chairman McCone noted the western area of Buck Lake borders on an area under EELs for grant purposes. The northeastern border may access the Rails-to-Trails program.

Heidy Dondero noted that Lake Helen in Volusia County took eight years in the making with state, county and city funding. They can do all they wanted to do except prepare food. They have professionally-built covered stalls for which they are allowed to collect fees. The city collects the money which goes right back to them which made it possible to build a beautiful arena. It is a beautiful multi-use facility. They are part of the greenway which allowed funding.

Chairman McCone noted the need to move forward on finding a location as prices are climbing. Other funding will be available once it is started. The original dream had many of the elements Ms. Dondero mentioned.

Ms. Dondero asked what the holdup is on choosing a property. Chairman McCone requested minutes of previous meetings be sent to Ms. Dondero. It has to be publicly owned land to qualify for grants. Chairman McCone reviewed the history, and said the Committee had to choose between committing to the Rails-to-Trails project or a different location.

Sabrina Jeffers reviewed that initially this Committee and the Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee were combined.

Chairman McCone reviewed that at the next meeting there will be the minutes and pictures, as well as inviting Mr. Henn regarding Buck Lake, and information on Salt Lake. Chairman McCone reminded the Committee the next meeting is April 17 at 7 p.m.

Sabrina Jeffers expressed her appreciation for the input since she wasn't able to attend the tour. She suggested pictures be shared with all.

The meeting adjourn at 3:22 p.m. at the motion by Kay Miller, seconded by Mary Page, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McCone, Chairman

jbi