

## EQUESTRIAN TRAILS & FACILITIES REFERENDUM COMMITTEE

Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation (NBCPR)

Meeting of April 17, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at the Mims-Scottsmoor Library

### Committee Members Present

Donna McCone, Chairman

Sabrina Jeffers

Kay Miller

Mary Page, Vice Chairman

Carol Thompson

Winnie Woods

### Committee Members Absent

Susan Canada-Excused

Connie Carswell-Excused

Jennifer Hill-Excused

### NBCPR Liaison

Gigi Henkel

### Staff Present

Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager

Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McCone called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

### II. ROLL CALL

Chairman McCone gave excused absences to Susan Canada, Connie Carswell and Jennifer Hill. Carol Thompson expressed concern there may be others interested in being on the Committee. Terry Lane stated staff has been trying to contact Susan Canada and Connie Carswell to no avail. Chairman McCone asked Judy Inman if there are other names on a waiting list. Mrs. Inman responded Clairese Austin was appointed as an alternate, but alternates now are considered along with other applicants.

Sabrina Jeffers arrived at this time.

Chairman McCone noted two of the absent members have been very active in the equestrian community and therefore is reluctant to not excuse them until it is known if they are still interested. Mr. Lane pointed out the rules established by the Board of County Commissioners and the NBCPR, 2 excused and 3 unexcused absences are allowed in a 12-month period and they have missed six meetings. Chairman McCone noted that may indicate waning interest. Mrs. Inman reported she attempts to call them each month. Prior to each meeting, a message is left on Susan Canada's voice mail, but there is no voice mail for Connie Carswell. Mailings have not been returned. Mrs. Inman reported Jennifer Hill was at work late this afternoon and her husband didn't know if she would attend. Discussion ensued on attendance, the rule, and extenuating circumstances. It was noted vacancies are noticed through a press release. Mrs. Henkel noted input from the Committee is helpful in the decision making process for appointments by the NBCPR. Chairman McCone stated she would like to bring thoughts back to the next meeting.

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**Motion by Sabrina Jeffers, seconded by Carol Thompson, for staff to send a final warning about attendance to Susan Canada and Connie Carswell.**

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

**NAY: McCone**

**Carried 5-1**

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### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Minutes of the March 25, 2006, meeting were approved at the motion by Winnie Woods, seconded by Carol Thompson.**

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

**NAY: None**

**Carried 6-0**

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Report of Park Tour & Desired Amenities

Chairman McCone thanked staff for the park tour and asked the Committee members to list things liked.

- Roofed Paddocks (Henkel)
- Water--priority for horses, potable secondary (Henkel)
- Concrete block ADA restrooms, one for men, one for women, environmentally sensitive such as an incinerator model. Mr. Miller reported Fish & Wildlife is to build a vault toilet at Salt Lake starting Friday which doesn't require a drain field.
- Easy Access (Miller)
- Parking (McCone)
- Picnic areas with covered shelter (McCone & Thompson)
- Kiosk with marked trails and accessibility maps (Henkel)
- Shade (Lane)

#### B. Potential Properties

- Buck Lake—Mr. Lane reported Peter Henn with St. Johns River Water Management District responded via email that the district does not usually encourage additional facilities of this type on conservation land, however, he requested plans and drawing so they can evaluate the scope of the project.
- Salt Lake—Mr. Lane reported David Turner, Land Manager for 5,000 acre Salt Lake which is under Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission is going to Tallahassee this week to discuss a 10-year plan. They are very interested in trails, but are not interested in building facilities such as a trail head. Mr. Miller said he doesn't think there is interest in a trail head but will bring it up.
- Mr. Lane reported Barbara Meyer is at a conference this week. No update was provided for Rails-to-Trails.
- Mr. Lane reported he met with Mike Knight, Environmentally Endangered Lands (EELs) Manager. EELs has been working on some property at the north end of Blounts Ridge Road, and is looking at getting appraisals. Mr. Knight brought to the EELs advisory board's attention they will need a caretaker and may want a trail head for connectivity to the Rails-to-Trails. Typically EELs doesn't like to do these types of improvements unless it is a disturbed area. There is dumping on the sandy trail which Chairman McCone confirmed it is disturbed as the area is extensively used by off-road bikes and has many dumping sites. This is over 500 acres and EELs is looking at another 100+ acres across I-95. Mr. Knight is willing to come to this Committee again. This process takes 60+ days. He may be able to come in June. If everything falls in place, it could be a July purchase.

Chairman McCone reminded that the EELs Enchanted Forest project was an equestrian area, but in their urgency to educate and provide for endangered species, EELs can be reluctant to accommodate equestrian use. She stated the need for solid answers from Mr. Knight about this particular parcel and how it could accommodate equestrians, and find out the process to petition EELs. Mrs. Henkel suggested there might be a contractual agreement for use. Mr. Lane reported there are other possibilities along the corridor Mr. Knight would like to talk to the Committee about, but he can't do so until June.

Gigi Henkel inquired staff goes to SJRWMD meetings. Mr. Lane stated that would be Mr. Nelson who is now under the Natural Resources Department. Mrs. Henkel asked if Buck Lake could be carried to SJRWMD at that level. Mr. Lane thought that if a plan/proposal is put together, possibly it could be on their agenda at some point.

Chairman McCone asked if it is important to start looking at plans, and inquired as to the process. Mrs. Henkel stated staff can proceed with Park Planner Terry Stoms for a conceptual idea. Chairman McCone would like a combination of Malabar Scrub & St. Sebastian River State Preserve.

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**Motion by Kay Miller, seconded by Mary Page, for staff to do a conceptual plan.**

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

**NAY: None**

**Carried 6-0**

Mr. Lane inquired the approximate acreage and how many trailer parking spaces the Committee wanted in the plan. Mr. Miller had at least 40 trailers at Buck Lake jammed in on about two acres or less. Chairman McCone suggested parking for 20 trailers on five acres with good access. Mr. Lane reported Mr. Knight had a problem with five acres. Chairman McCone stated the Committee may not be able to have the events originally discussed. Sabrina Jeffers stated her thoughts are the plan can always be scaled down if necessary. It isn't known ~~know~~ how much land will be available. Events were a big thing discussed. In the dreamland, ~~she~~ Ms. Jeffers would still like to get a multi-use facility that Barbara Meyer talked about. Carol Thompson noted if it isn't large enough, there won't be enough room for raising money and asked if there is any reason there can't be two facilities. Carol Thompson suggested a small trail head on 5 acres at Rails-to-Trails. Salt Lake or Buck Lake could be for a bigger facility, but more basic to start with. Winnie Woods suggested starting out with two small sites and expand one into a larger site. Sabrina Jeffers noted Salt Lake doesn't connect to the corridor. Carol Thompson noted Barbara Myer was going to see if there can be connection between Rails-to-Trails and Buck Lake.

Sabrina Jeffers asked Terry Lane if the Committee makes a decision on this smaller thing, would the Committee's job be finished, or can the Committee work on a second area. Terry Lane responded there was talk about more than one location on Rails-to-Trails and that he didn't think the Committee was strapped to one trail head. Sabrina Jeffers stated her concern that if the Committee makes a decision to go with a smaller trail head, someone will say okay you're done.

Mrs. Henkel noted Rails-to-Trails has more dollars than the Referendum project, as does EELs, and stated the County needs a lot of small trail heads like Malabar has.

Mr. Miller reported he got a special use permit to park under power lines at Buck Lake and has the same at Salt Lake. Buck Lake was happy with the event, as the group picked up markers and debris. Hopefully Salt Lake will be the same. He noted that even if it is a small trail head, special use permits can be requested for larger events.

Terry Lane asked the standard size trailer. It was decided spaces need to accommodate a 40' rig, to be able to get a semi in and out. Sabrina Jeffers suggested pull through spaces. Winnie Woods noted to plan the width to tie horses to the trailers. Chairman McCone noted some ramps go off to the side. Mrs. Henkel suggested RV-size sites would be good with width up to 30', some smaller. Minimum of 10 trailer slots on a minimum of 5 acres.

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**Motion by Carol Thompson, seconded by Kay Miller, for two plans, one on 10 acres and one on 5 acres, with a minimum of 10 trailer parking spaces and amenities, and the additional five acres for parking.**

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

**NAY: None**

**Carried 6-0**

V. NEW BUSINESS—None

VI. PUBLIC INPUT —None

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Mrs. Henkel suggested postponing the next meeting until the information is ready. Mr. Lane stated he is not sure what Terry Stoms' schedule is, and noted he is waiting on projects for other parks. Mike Knight can appear in June. Winnie Woods suggested meeting contingent on when the plans are available or if

Barbara Meyer is available. Chairman McCone suggested meeting on May 15 only if the plans are ready, otherwise meet on June 19. Carol Thompson suggested meeting in May if Barbara Meyer has a lot of information by then.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m. at the motion by Winnie Woods, seconded by Mary Page and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McCone, Chairman

jbi