

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS & FACILITIES REFERENDUM COMMITTEE

Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation (NBCPR)
Minutes of the Meeting held September 18, 2006, 6:00 p.m., at the Mims/Scottsmoor Library

Committee Members Present

Mary Page, Vice Chairman
Susan Canada
Sabrina Jeffers
Kay Miller
Winnie Woods

Committee Members Absent--Excused

Connie Carswell
Jennifer Hill
Donna McCone, Chairman
Carol Thompson

NBCPR Liaison Present

Gigi Henkel

Staff Present

Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Lee Lowerre, Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Page called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL—listed above.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Kay Miller, seconded by Sabrina Jeffers, to approve the minutes of August 21, 2006.

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

NAY: None

Carried 5-0

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Buck Lake—Terry Lane gave a brief synopsis of the presentation from Nels Parson, Joann Baber and Karen Baker, from the SJRWMD regarding Buck Lake. Terry Lane stated he understood at this meeting the Committee would be discussing some of the topics that were discussed at the August meeting.

Sabrina Jeffers expressed her discomfort regarding the request made from Mr. Rodney Hillsman. She asked Terry Lane if Mr. Hillsman had contacted his office to ask if anyone would attend the next Fawn Lake Homeowners Committee meeting to discuss this issue.

Gigi Henkel mentioned that she doesn't believe anyone from the Committee should attend their meeting. Mrs. Henkel said he would be welcome to attend future Equestrian meetings and express their concerns and issues then.

Winnie Woods agreed the Committee should not attend the homeowner meeting.

Terry Lane mentioned that staff did reiterate to Mr. Hillsman that as a speaker he was entitled to speak for three minutes per issue and that he stated he understood the rules.

B. Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL)—Terry Lane briefly explained to the Committee that Mike Knight works through the direction of the EEL Selection Committee and they have a certain criteria they must use to purchase land. He mentioned that Mr. Knight will keep the Committee in mind as they look for the properties. He also said Mr. Knight has agreed to keep the Mr. Lane's office and the Committee informed of their decision on the property to the west of I-95 in the Mims-Scottsmoor area.

Sabrina Jeffers questioned whether or not the EEL Program could withdraw their agreement at a future time. She has issues from past experiences with what the EEL Program has done previously. Terry explained that the EEL Program is a part of the Parks and Recreation Department and that joint agreements are used, therefore, it would not happen. If approved, North Area Parks Operations would maintain and operate the trailhead and also any expansion or additional funding would have to be approved by the EEL Selection Committee.

Gigi Henkel responded to Sabrina Jeffers' concerns by stating that she believes this agreement would be a positive impact and that the EEL Program will welcome them using the property for equestrians so that they can work at policing the area from the ATV riders. Terry Lane explained that the EEL Program is in a learning process of working with the different organizations and parks with the policing of properties. He believes things will work with this process.

C. Rails-to-Trails—Vice-Chairman Page mentioned that Barbara Meyer brought the Committee to where the Rails-to-trails committee is and the fact that their committee is looking for an additional trailhead in the North Brevard area.

Terry Lane indicated that Barbara Meyer promised to keep the Committee informed of the Rails-to-Trails progress. He added he would invite Barbara Meyer to future

meetings if she has news that the Committee would find helpful and useful.

D. Committee Attendance—Vice-Chairman Page tabled discussion on the Committee attendance until the next meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Terry Lane reported staff has no new business, however, he did mention that in the past the Committee had discussed layout of a possible trailhead being basic and similar to that of the Town of Malabar, but if any of the Committee members has a different direction in mind, staff needs to know. The trailhead would be anywhere from two to five acres depending on the number of parking spaces.

Vice-Chairman Page mentioned it should be primitive.

Sabrina Jeffers thought the Committee would discuss different ideas and asked if any of the Committee members have dislikes about how the Committee is progressing to date.

Terry Lane said the original idea was having the equestrian trails and restroom for \$250,000. There has been discussion in the past about basic trailheads. Terry mentioned that the Committee needs to think about how many trailheads they will need. Kay Miller commented that the Committee would need to establish their land domain. Sabrina Jeffers agreed that first they need to find the land.

Winnie Woods added that she feels the Committee is getting closer no matter how frustrating it may seem now.

Terry Lane commented to Vice-Chairman Page that the Committee's discussion has been directed to finding areas with paved roads and having an infrastructure for water, and sewer, and electric. He then asked the Committee if the EEL Program property becomes available at the end of Blouts Ridge, would it meet all their criteria. It is at the Rails-to-Trails property with a potential land use agreement that looks favorable to establishing a trailhead. Also the EEL Program might possibly fund creating a caretaker site. Mike Knight had also mentioned possible funding assistance with the trailhead. In response to a request from Kay Miller and Mary Page, Mr. Lane verified that the property is disturbed.

Sabrina Jeffers asked how much of the Referendum money would be used if the Committee agreed to use the property through an agreement with the EEL Program. Terry Lane replied that would depend on what the Committee selected. Two Hundred thirty thousand dollars doesn't go a long way, however, since property would not have to be purchased, all the funds could be used to have what the Committee desired.

Sabrina Jeffers asked Terry Lane for clarification on how the joint agreement would work with the EEL Program. Terry Lane assured the Committee that the EEL Program would work together with North Area Parks Operations because they are a part of the Parks & Recreation Department and has the backing of the Board of County Commissioners.

Susan Canada asked if the Equestrian Committee could set the timeline of the joint agreement. Terry Lane stated yes.

Susan Canada asked Terry Lane if the EEL Program ever sells their property. Terry Lane answered yes, however, they can only sell to the State for land management.

Winnie Woods commented that if there are many individuals using the trails, no one would take the trails away. Sabrina Jeffers agreed with Winnie Woods and added that for that reason, it is important for the Committee to make the trailhead as nice as possible for everyone to use.

Susan Canada questioned whether they were still contemplating permitting overnight camping on the property. Terry Lane answered that it will depend on the property that will be used.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

John Pine commented that if the EEL property is the property the Committee selects for the trailhead, the only major concerns will be the ATVs and motorized recreation vehicles. Winnie Woods stated that she believes that the EEL Program will welcome the equestrians to police the property. Sabrina Jeffers also mentioned that the Committee is aware of these issues and will address them as they are presented.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Committee decided to meet on November 20, at 6 p.m., and will limit their meeting to one hour if the Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Committee meets at 7 p.m. the same night.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. at the motion by Susan Canada, seconded by Winnie Woods.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Page, Vice Chairman

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