

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS & FACILITIES REFERENDUM COMMITTEE

Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation (NBCPR)
Minutes of the Meeting held March 19, 2007, 6 p.m., at the Mims/Scottsmoor Library

Committee Members Present

Donna McCone, Chairman
Susan Canada
Jennifer Hill
Sabrina Jeffers
Kay Miller
Dr. Nicholas Rinaldi
Carol Thompson
Winnie Woods

Committee Members Absent--Excused

Mary Page, Vice Chair

NBCPR Liaison Present

Gigi Henkel

Staff Present

Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager
Richard Tucci, Recreation Superintendent
Diane Ruth, Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McCone called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. at the front entry area of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library.

II. ROLL CALL

Chairman McCone welcomed new member Dr. Rinaldi.
Attendance as listed above.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Carol Thompson, seconded by Kay Miller, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2007.

AYE: Canada, Hill, Jeffers, Miller, McCone, Rinaldi, Thompson, Woods.

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL)

Terry Lane related that Mike Knight did not have any thing to report, so Mr. Knight sent the Ag Ventures Properties and the Scottsmoor Partners Properties map, handed out to the Committee members. Mr. Knight said both properties were current, willing sellers. However, negotiations have stopped on the Ag Ventures properties until the PUD issues are resolved. The appraisal process has begun on the Scottsmoor Partners Properties. The EEL program would be supportive of equestrian trails on both properties. Blounts Ridge Road has been looked at as an entry and is located at the Ag Ventures property.

When Committee members asked questions about other areas highlighted or outlined on the map, Mr. Lane explained that the map was used for other EEL projects. Mr. Lane gave an overview of the locations being examined by the members, saying the area at the north

end of Blounts Ridge Road, if purchased, would have a caretaker, trailhead, parking and restroom facilities.

B. Rails-to-Trails

Mr. Lane referred to another handout, an article from the *Florida Today* newspaper on February 12, 2007, about the tri-county rail trails. Mr. Lane told the members that Barbara Meyer was unable to attend, but two weeks ago he and Ms. Meyer attended a meeting in Volusia County about the 52 miles of trails partnership to develop this trail. Possibly this summer in June, the plan goes before the Florida Legislators for purchasing the rail bed. Once the purchase has been made, he said, staff can start working on environmental, developmental, and surveys of the actual trail. He also informed the members that one mile of trail will cost approximately \$500,000 to build. One of the environmental concerns, he told them, is the things that may have been dumped on the rail bed.

In answer to a member's belief that the railway had already been purchased, Mr. Lane said there had been negotiations with Miami Corp and FEC on the actual trail itself, with some of the corridors from 50 ft to 200 ft. But, he added, an agreement to be worked out with the State and Miami Corp for the purchase now seems to be agreed upon in principle, so things can move forward.

Sabrina Jeffers asked Mr. Lane if he could tell the Committee what Volusia County plans to do with their sections of the trails. Mr. Lane said that Volusia County was already a step ahead of Brevard in planning by allocating annual funding to the trails.

Susan Canada asked if Brevard County had agreed to the \$2,750,000 to \$5,500,000 to build the trail. Mr. Lane said that amount was an estimate, but that no funding was in place for it. In response to Ms. Canada's inquiry

if funding will be in place for it, Mr. Lane said according to Barbara Meyer there are a lot of state/federal grants available because of the County's partnerships with the State, Volusia and Seminole Counties, Canaveral National Seashore, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. That doesn't mean funding would be a shoo-in, he stated, but the ranking will go way up.

Chairman McCone told the members if they wanted more information on rails and trails, they could go online to a federal website address, railtrails.org, providing historical and other partnership facts.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Terry Lane called the members' attention to a news release from the EEL program announcing a public meeting to discuss North Buck Lake Scrub Sanctuary, to be held at Cuyler Park Community Center, April 3, 2007, at 6 p.m. Mr. Lane said this is EEL property the Committee had discussed at previous meetings. Chairman McCone encouraged the Committee members to attend.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Although no cards had been handed in, two members of the public had just arrived, Jabez K. Coggan II and Jabez K. Coggan III, and were given the opportunity to speak by Chairman McCone. Mr. Coggan II said he had some property at the end of Rt. 5A, on the opposite side of where the Dairy Queen used to be, down a dirt road, and was looking to sell some of it. Mr. Coggan pointed out his exact location on the EEL map to Terry Lane, saying his acreage was scattered out in pieces.

When Chairman McCone inquired what Mr. Coggan's thoughts were about having a equestrian trail facility in his neighborhood, he said right now there were lots of three wheelers in that area and he had wanted to know more about what the Committee was doing.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Terry Lane said the Monday in April when the Committee would normally meet is also the day a meeting of the Mims/Scotts Moor Library is being planned, although nothing had been scheduled yet.

When Chairman McCone wondered if the Committee needed to meet in April, Terry Lane said there were still a couple of things on hold, the Rails-to-Trails, the State, the agreement with Volusia County, and EEL is still waiting to see what it can do with this property. When Sabrina Jeffers inquired if EEL still wanted the

Committee's design recommendations, Terry Lane replied that his understanding was the Committee liked the Town of Malabar primitive, rustic and natural setting. The members agreed and felt they were just waiting for the property to be chosen for the actual trailhead. So, Mr. Lane said, the Committee is waiting for a management plan from EEL, including how much land will be allowed, the possibility of a caretaker, and possible assistance for infrastructure.

Chairman McCone said until the information is forthcoming there was no reason to meet until then, which could be in May. The members agreed that the 6 p.m. time was best, and there was some flexibility on what Monday they met. Although the members said the second Monday of the month may present a conflict for a few, those members said they could meet if necessary.

Some members expressed concerns about incurring problems meeting again at the library. Terry Lane and Chairman McCone said tonight's meeting was an exception and they have had no previous problems.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 6:40 p.m. at the motion by Dr. Rinaldi, seconded by Sabrina Jeffers.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna McCone, Chairman

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