

APPROVED

Pinellas Trails, Inc. Work Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2018 Largo Library

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by President. Scott Daniels

Attendees included Richard Valentine, Scott Daniels, George Hunt, Stu Swartzreich, Ramona Hahn, David Ring, Joan Rice, Christine Acosta, Dee Turner, Jim Wedlake, Jan Hirshfield, Chip Freeman, Carol Gray, Deputy E. G Gibson and Brian Smith.

Minutes of the March 2018 Annual Meeting were approved as read.

County Staff /Trail Update – Carol Gray

Trail construction projects and maintenance are moving forward including cleaning and sweeping gravel along the new stretch of the Tri-County trail and new sewer line construction near the KOA Campground although this has not closed the trail.

New models of trail counters are being installed, including 5 new versions from a different vendor for a total of 8 in all. St. Petersburg has also installed three trail counters within their city limits. These new counters will make monthly reports much more accurate.

Two possible locations for a new memorial bench have been selected behind the Florida Hospital in Tarpon Springs.

There are retirements to report including Don Wilson, Trade Supervisor, and Sand Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator. The passing of Lynn Wargo, Volunteer Coordinator Jonathan Skinner's girl friend was also noted, and Carol said she would pass along our condolences.

The 911 stencils on the trail have been improved and the county has been working with vendors from Quickcrete and Rustoleum to improve them more as there was an issue with the paint peeling up, probably from not allowing the Quickcrete to cure enough.

Scott Daniels noted that the condition of the trail has worsened in many sections and the trail needs to be restriped in many areas. Volunteers have been making new bollards, but much more needs to be done, and Scott requested a meeting with county staff to discuss this issue. Carol said she would pass this along, and mentioned that Public Works is coming on-board to take over trail maintenance duties including re-paving, storm water canal cleanout, new signage and vegetation management. Any issues with trail maintenance can be addressed to Tom Washburn of Public Works.

There was also a question about the status of the Advertising signage program which was supposed to help with Trail funding.

Christine Acosta inquired about "wayfinding" signage to help people who are unfamiliar with the area and the trail understand where they are.

Jim Wedlake inquired about the status of keep right/pass left trail signage, and Carol said that she believed that in the future signage will direct pedestrians to stay on the shoulders with bicycle traffic in the center.

Joan Rice from Pinellas County Public Works reported on the issues with the south loop which mostly center around right-of-way issues.

Richard Valentine inquired about the status of the Honeymoon Island State Park Trail extension, and Joan confirmed that construction would be commencing in July.

Richard also reported that the City of Dunedin would be holding citizen's input meetings regarding the Skinner Ave. corridor from Alt. 19 to Bass Blvd.

The Orange St. overpass is currently being constructed off-site and is still scheduled for installation sometime in December if not before.

Pinellas County Sheriff Update – Officer Gibson

Sheriff Gibson was on-hand to report to us about his experiences within his assigned area of Lealman in south central Pinellas which includes a trail along Joe's Creek and the Joe's Creek at Greenway Park. This area is considered economically depressed and has a higher than normal crime rate. The officers cannot get on the property at this time with heavier vehicles because of the narrowness of the bridges, and they are unable to pursue potential perpetrators who might be using motorized vehicles. He reports seeing all manner of private vehicles in the park including motorcycles, golf carts, motor scooters and ATV's, which are illegal. In coming before Pinellas Trails, Inc., he is inquiring about the possibility of getting our assistance in acquiring a vehicle, such as an ATV, that will better enable his officers to pursue those fleeing the scene of criminal activity. He will be drafting a formal letter of request for us to review.

The department is also looking at ways to better cooperate with other trail jurisdictions and communities that the trail runs through in order to communicate better and keep it safe for users.

BPAC Update – Brian Smith

Brian reported that Pasco County has begun construction of their section of the Coast-to-Coast trail which, when completed will create a 100 mile stretch to Dunnellon.

Pasco County is also working on trail projects north of the Anclote which will connect to the Elfer's Spur.

The Druid Road trail is currently under construction that will connect the Duke Energy Trail to the Memorial Causeway.

The Bayway and Skyway Trails are under construction and within 2 years, the new Courtney Campbell Causeway will start construction and will have bike lanes. Work is being done to find the best way to connect to the Pinellas Trail, probably along 4th St.

The Courtney Campbell overpass is scheduled for completion in 2023 although the state wants to complete it sooner, possibly as soon as 2020.

Treasurer's Report – Chip Freeman

Chip reported that in the first 6 months we had \$1,000 in donations for memorial benches.

We made \$300 in investment income, spent \$567 for our P.O. Box, state filing fees, and Annual Meeting expenses. We have over \$100,000 in restricted assets and around \$50,000 in unrestricted

assets.

It was reported that the cost of benches has recently increased by over 50% from our current vendor and we probably need to look into alternate vendors as well as possibly modify the required amount for contributions unless PT Inc. decides to cover the difference. The benches must fit into county guidelines, and the county is now going to be charging us for installation.

We received a quote of \$757 for Directors and Officers Liability insurance.

Chip has sent out a copy of a new investment policy for the Board to review.

In the next few years, Chip would like to see a considerable push for more donations in time for the 30 anniversary of the Trail.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Old Business

We need to start planning for the Trail's 30th anniversary coming up in two years. Scott is asking for volunteers to help plan for the event.

Jan Hirschfield reported that he has not heard back from the county regarding our licensing agreement with them. The document is currently with their legal department.

New Business

The County Commissioners have a new citizen survey out. Richard will find and link it to our Facebook page and send out a notice to our mailing list. This is an opportunity to voice support for the Trail and all that it means to the county.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.