

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE  
GOOD NEIGHBOR TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Joseph E. Johnston, III, Council Chambers, 201 Howell Avenue,  
Brooksville, FL**

**JANUARY 18, 2018**

**5:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Vince Morris at 5:30 p.m.

*Committee Members Present:* Vincent Morris, GNTAC Chairman/Florida Forest Service; Eugene Kelly, Florida Native Plant Society; Richard Gant, City Parks and Recreation Board; John Beatty, GNT Trail Enthusiast; Ronette Snyder, ~~Brooksville Garden Club~~ GNT Trail Enthusiast; Robert Battista, City Council representative and Dawn Fish, resident.

*Committee Members or staff absent:* Jan Knowles, Historian; Ron Daniel; Heritage Museum; Carole Knudson, Tourism Bureau; and Steve Diez, Hernando County Planning Department/MPO staff.

*Brooksville Staff & Others Present:* Bill Geiger, Community Development Director; Mike Walker, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director; and Jennifer Battista, recording secretary. Mike Dolan, Inaugural Brooksville Good Neighbor Trail Bike Ride Event Coordinator, was also present.

**Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2017**

**Motion:**

Motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Council Liaison Battista to approve the September 21, 2017 GNTAC minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Nomination was made by Kelly and seconded by Council Liaison Battista to reappoint Vince Morris as Chairman. There were no further nominations. Nomination carried unanimously.

Nomination was made by Gant and seconded by Council Liaison Battista to appoint Gene Kelly as Vice-Chairman. There were no further nominations. Nomination carried unanimously.

**Presentation of Upcoming Event – Inaugural Brooksville Good Neighbor Trail Bike Ride**

Presentation of Main Street Program event (date to be determined) to commemorate the completion of the Brooksville Good Neighbor Trail.

Mike Dolan introduced himself and advised that he is the Brooksville Vision Foundation/Main Street event coordinator for this bike ride. He gave a brief description of the pre-event bike ride as well as the main bike event, adding that it is scheduled for October 14, 2018. He stated that one of the purposes of the event is to make Brooksville the central bicycling location in this part of Florida.

Mr. Dolan advised that a sub-committee is holding on-going planning meetings and that additional volunteers are needed, especially as it relates to a food vendor organization and publicity. At the recommendation of Community Development Director Geiger, Mr. Dolan advised that since several of the Good Neighbor Trail Advisory Committee members serve on the sub-committee, he has been posting agendas for the sub-committee meetings to meet the requirements of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Dolan went over the sponsorship opportunities and called attention to the draft flyer and "Annual Bike Ride Handbook" provided in the agenda packet which is being compiled by the Brooksville Vision Foundation/Main Street Program and the sub-committee.

In response to Chairman Morris' question regarding registration, Mr. Dolan informed those present that a website for the event is being worked on and on-line registration will start in March or April.

Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director, Mike Walker, advised that October 14<sup>th</sup> is the kick-off day for Founders' Week.

Florida Coast 2 Coast Relay – Inaugural Relay Event  
FDEP's Greenways and Trails event - May 11 and 12, 2018.

Community Development Director Geiger advised that this agenda item is provided for informational purposes only and no action is required of the Committee. It was pointed out that a private company, Genesis Adventures, is organizing the May 11 & 12, 2018, event and it is supported by FDEP's Greenways and Trails Division.

Mr. Dolan added that this event, as well as the Bike Ride event in October, will enhance tourism and both are supported by Tourism/Adventure Coast Director, Tammy Heon.

GNT Phase III & IV Construction  
Update on January 4, 2018, pre-construction meeting and updated timeline for completion.

Chairman Morris advised that Phase III is complete. Regarding Phase IV through the State Forest, Morris reported on a pre-construction meeting he attended on January 4<sup>th</sup>. It was his understanding that the Notice to Proceed was to be issued on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The contractor, Goodwin Brothers, then has 270 days for substantial completion and 300 days for final completion.

Chairman Morris advised that the agreement between the Florida Wildlife Commission and the Division of Forestry has not been completed and it may delay the relocation of the gopher tortoises and, therefore, may delay the completion date for the Phase IV extension. He went on to advise that prolonged nights of low temperatures may also delay the relocation of the gopher tortoises. He informed those present that he is doing everything he can from a Forestry standpoint to move this process along and advised that the contractor has given assurances that he will expedite construction once all approvals are in place.

Update on projects  
Downtown Water Tower Site Beautification Project

Community Development Director Geiger explained that the recommendations on this project made by the GNTAC at their meeting on September 21, 2017, were approved by Council. Council authorized the project to proceed. Construction plans are near completion and the

project will be put out to bid in the near future.

In response to Vice-Chairman Kelly's question, Community Development Director Geiger advised that it is anticipated that construction at the water tower site will be completed by the October bike ride event.

Mike Dolan interjected that the water tower site is not on the October, 2018 event route, but will be important for parking, future rides and for promoting the downtown area.

#### Coast-to-Coast Trail (Hernando County)

Community Development Director Geiger updated the Committee on the status of the PD & E plans currently being worked on by FDOT. The route of the C2C through the City and south on Main Street will bring it within one block of the water tower site and it is possible a connector could alert riders to its location. FDOT is in the process of bidding the work for designing the C2C connector route into and through the City and construction/completion is still targeted for 2021/22.

Community Development Director Geiger reported on the bridges/overpasses that will be needed: 1) at S.R. 50 bypass near Whitfield Ave. and 2) at the Railroad tracks on Broad Street. FDOT has been advised that the City would be interested in placing signage on the bridgework so that a placeholder for incorporating this into the plan would be included during the design process.

Chairman Morris reported that the bike trail will have to cross the Withlacoochee River at a location to be determined (anticipated to be in the vicinity of the Iron Bridge).

#### Update - Air Potato Beetles

Chairman Morris advised that the beetles are currently dormant. They were successful in 2017 and it is hopeful that they continue to be effective in the reduction of the air potato plant in 2018.

#### Events Calendar

The following are some upcoming events in the City limits of Brooksville:

January 15 – MLK, Jr., Parade – Downtown Brooksville

January 20 – 21, 2018 – Brooksville Raid – Sand Hill Scout Reservation

January 25, February 22 and March 29 (last Thurs of each month) – Main Street Program's "Whine About it" – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. - at Rising Sun Bistro and various locations TBD

January 26 – 28 – Greek Festival (Toga 5K Run/Walk Jan27) – at Fairgrounds

February 10 – Southern Showdown Demolition Derby 4:00 – 10:00 p.m. – at Fairgrounds

February 24 – May Stringer Museum's Annual Heritage Day Festival 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – at Russell St. Train Depot

March 10 & 11 – Art in the Park 9:00 a.m. – at Tom Varn Park

April 13 – 21 – Hernando County Fair – at Fairgrounds

Chairman Morris advised that the 5K Red Mule run on the GNT will be held February 10<sup>th</sup>. There were no further events discussed.

Old/New Business

Widening on SR 50/wide walk installation

Chairman Morris brought up the wide walks being installed in town on SR 50/bypass, as well as those planned as part of the widening project east of town on SR 50. It was acknowledged that it will be a benefit to provide a safe walkway for pedestrians and it will not compete with the uses on the Withlacoochee State Trail.

Correspondence to note – letters commending staff for trail extension

Committee Member Fish pointed out the two letters on correspondence to note from citizens who expressed appreciation to those who made the extension of the GNT possible as it makes the trail an enjoyable ride for all users.

Signage at trail into State Forest

Chairman Morris indicated he was working with FDOT in getting a welcome arch or some type of beautiful signage signifying the trail as it enters the State Forest.

Next Meeting Date – Thursday, April 19, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Morris, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 6/28/18