

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

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

JUNE 28, 2018

5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Gene Kelly, at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Vincent Morris, GNTAC Chairman/Florida Forest Service [arrived a few minutes late]; Eugene Kelly, Vice Chairman, Florida Native Plant Society; Richard Gant, City Parks and Recreation Board; Ronette Snyder, GNT Trail Enthusiast; Dawn Fish, City resident; and Robert Battista, City Council representative.

Committee Members or staff absent: Jan Knowles, Historian; Ron Daniel; Heritage Museum; 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 Sandra Kirby, recording secretary. Mike Dolan, Inaugural Brooksville Good Neighbor Trail Bike Ride Event Coordinator, was also present.

Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2018

Board Member Snyder requested that her name affiliation not reflect the Brooksville Garden Club.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended carried unanimously.

Update - Inaugural Brooksville Good Neighbor Trail Bike Ride

Update on Main Street Program event to commemorate the completion of the Brooksville Good Neighbor Trail (October, 2018 proposed date)

Mike Dolan, Event Coordinator on the planning committee, updated the GNTAC on the upcoming event. He distributed a flyer which includes a registration for the various bike events to be held. He reported on the jersey being designed, SAG (support and gear) stop locations, and ongoing efforts to get a volunteer coordinator to work with volunteers on the day of the event.

Mr. Dolan anticipates that the event will produce about \$10,000 in revenue for the Main Street Program. He advised those present of the status of the construction of the extension of the trail through the State Forest and how that will impact the planned event. Mr. Dolan advised that if the paving is done in time for the event, but the follow-up items such as signage and stripping has not been done yet, he plans to proceed with the event as planned.

Parks, Facilities and Recreation Director Walker advised that this will be going before Council in the near future for a sponsorship credit and questioned whether the request will be from the Main Street Committee or the GNTAC. Community Development Director Geiger responded that it would be in the name of the Main Street but suggested that the GNTAC could be a supporting agency. Mike Dolan expressed his agreement

Motion:

Motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Gant that the GNTAC be named as a sponsor of the Inaugural Brooksville Good Neighbor Trail Bike Ride event. Motion carried unanimously.

In response to City Council Liaison Battista's question regarding the level of support received from the Adventure Coast Tourism organization, Dolan stated that he has submitted a grant request for \$3,000 and he hopes for additional money out of their discretionary fund.

Update on projects

Downtown Water Tower Site Beautification Project

Community Development Director Geiger reported that the project is in the pre-construction phase, adding that City Council has approved an agreement with a contractor to move forward with the project. He stated that once the contract is signed, the commencement date will be decided. He is hoping that construction can begin around July 23, 2018, with a completion date of 90 days thereafter.

GNT Phase IV Construction

Community Development Director Geiger advised that he has been informed that substantial completion, including clean-up, is scheduled for November, 2018. Mike Dolan stated that it his understanding that paving should begin in June or July, 2018. Once the paving is down, installation of grass, stripping, signage, etc will occur.

Chairman Morris discussed the FDOT tentative plans for a trail as it heads east out of Hernando County.

Coast-to-Coast Trail (Hernando County)

Community Development Director Geiger reported that the State is moving ahead with constructing the Coast to Coast trail from the Suncoast Parkway to Cobb Road and it should be under construction in 2019. The section from Cobb Road through Brooksville should be completed by 2021 or 2022.

Certifying GNT for racing

Consideration of certifying trail as a running race course.

Parks, Facilities and Recreation Walker advised that this request originated from a request from the Junior Service League, who has annually hosted a masquerade run on the GNT. An organization out of Orlando, JT Sports Event Management, certifies trails for running/race courses. The Junior Service League would work on getting funding for costs associated with this certification from organizations who are interested in supporting the certification of the trail.

If the trail is certified, Member Fish questioned how often the trail would be shut down. Chairman Morris expressed his belief that running races would not shut the trail down. Community Development Director Geiger agreed that the trail would need to remain open to the public and would not be officially shut down.

It was pointed out that the trail would be certified for a period of 10 years. Community Development Director Geiger informed those present that this certification program is not overseen by the government but by private entities.

Chairman Morris questioned what the name of the trail will be once the GNT connects with the Coast to Coast trail. Community Development Director Geiger stated that local trails retain their identification but the signage will probably reflect the Coast to Coast trail.

Vice Chairman Kelly felt that certification of the trail was a necessity to be a trail destination for races. It was the consensus of the GNTAC to allow certification of the trail.

[Vice Chairman Kelly left the meeting at this time.]

Update - Air Potato Beetles

Chairman Morris stated that the beetles have not appeared in Russell St. Park during this current life cycle. Committee Member Snyder expressed her opinion that they are not in Tom Varn Park. Chairman Morris stated that they are present in other locations. He added that the beetles had trouble making it

through the winter, which was not cold enough for their preference, and the current climate change tendencies are not favorable for their food sources.

Events Calendar

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

- July 1st – every Sunday - 10:00 am – 4:00 pm - Farmer's Market - 300 S. Main St.
- July 4th – HC Fine Arts' Council Concert Event – Band shell
- July 4th – Firecracker Smash 'M Up – Fairgrounds
- August 4th – 10:00 am - Operation Back Pack – Jerome Brown Center
- August 11th - Back to School Concert and Jeep Truck show – at Quarry
- September 14 (2nd Friday of each month (excluding July & August) – 5:00 – 10:00 pm - Main Street Program's Friday Night Live – Band shell
- September 22nd (3rd Sunday of each month-excluding July & August) – 2:00 – 6:00 pm - Brooksville Bike Rally – Downtown Brooksville

Parks, Facilities and Recreation Director Walker reported on the Back to School concert event at the Quarry. He advised that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is working on a Parks Master Plan for City Council's consideration.

No events were added for discussion.

Old/New Business

Bridges at GNT

It was reported by Parks, Facilities and Recreation Director Walker that repairs of existing bridges have been ongoing. In some locations, the bridges are being replaced by pavement.


New Herbicide

The Chairman reported that there is a new herbicide on the market for killing exotic plants such as camphors.

Next Suggested Meeting Date – Thursday, September 27, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

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



Vincent Morris, Chairman

Minutes Approved: Not approved, 9-27-2018, no quorum
Minutes Approved: 1-17-19