

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

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

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

5:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Morris at 5:35 p.m. There was no quorum, so this meeting was informational only.

Committee Members Present: Vincent Morris, GNTAC Chairman/Florida Forest Service; Eugene Kelly, Vice Chairman, Florida Native Plant Society; Ronette Snyder, GNT Trail Enthusiast; and Robert Battista, City Council representative.

Committee Members or staff absent: John Beatty, Trail Enthusiast; Dawn Fish, City resident; Richard Gant, City Parks and Recreation Board; Jan Knowles, Historian; 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 – June 28, 2018 - no action taken due to lack of quorum. This will placed on next meeting date agenda.

Update - Inaugural Brooksville Good Neighbor Trail Bike Ride (October 14, 2018)

Update on Main Street Program event to commemorate the completion of the eastern segment of the Good Neighbor Trail from the Brooksville Trailhead to the Withlacoochee State Trail.

Mike Dolan gave an update to the GNTAC regarding the upcoming Inaugural Bike Ride on the GNT. He addressed the following:

- Chamber of Commerce putting together goodie bags. A goodie bag stuffing party will be scheduled
- Bike clothing store vendor from Cape Coral will be setting up a vendor booth at the event
- Registration deadline has passed. There are 10-mile, 20-mile, 35-mile and 65-mile events as well as a family ride event planned
- T-Shirts will be available for those registering which is included in registration price
- Jerseys have been designed, in part by GNTAC member Dawn Fish, and will be available for \$65.00
- Set up on the date of the event is 5:30 a.m. and volunteers are welcome
- Florida's Adventure Coast/Tourism is supplying chill cups for those participating in 65-mile event
- Florida's Adventure Coast/Tourism is staffing a SAG stop
- Rails to Trails representative will be staffing a SAG stop
- Health Department's CHIPP program are supplying some volunteers and equipment

Update on projects

a. Downtown Water Tower Site Beautification Project

Community Development Director Geiger advised that construction is underway. The deadline for completion is October 24 and he anticipates it will be done around that timeframe.

b. Coast-to-Coast Trail (Hernando County)

The GNTAC discussed whether the multi-use trail planned for S.R. 50 will constitute the segment of the Coast to Coast trail connection, especially since there are land acquisition issues in Sumter County. Chairman Morris stated that the route is still being reviewed and the possibility of it going further into the State Forest is still being looked. The C2C is still on track for completion in 2022.

c. Trail Lease from State Division of Forestry

Chairman Morris stated that there is an upcoming Enduro event that will cross the trail on the portion through the State Forest which is not officially open yet. He stated that the lease between the County and Forestry allows Forestry to close trails if necessary. He stated that the County's lease with Forestry makes it clear that the County is aware that the bike trail is not to interfere with the sub-lessor's (Forestry) multiple use management activities such as prescribed burning, timber harvesting, recreational activities, etc., and that Forestry has the authority to shut down portions of the trail for short durations.

It was pointed out that acceptance of the trail through the State Forest is set to be heard by the Board of County Commissioners on October 9, 2018, and the ribbon cutting will be in November.

The GNTAC discussed City Council Liaison Battista's question on signage on other sections of the trail directing riders to the GNT, as well as benches and other amenities along the route. Mike Dolan advised that the Main Street Program is getting a \$2,500 grant from Bike Florida and perhaps the money could be used for these amenities. Battista advised that they would need permission from the County to install anything on the portion of the trail through the County.

Update - Air Potato Beetles

Chairman Morris advised that the Air Potato Beetles are flourishing but their long-term effect is still to be determined.

Events Calendar

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

- Every Sunday - Farmers' Market – 615 Old Hospital Dr. – 10:00 a.m.
- 1st Annual Brooksville Paranormal Experience – 601 Museum Court – Sept 29th 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Vineyard Church Annual Community Bar-B-Q – Oct 6th (Time not available at print)
- Friday Night Live – 205 E. Ft. Dade Ave (Band Shell) Oct. 12 and Nov. 9, 5:00 p.m.
- Uptown Art Gallery Reception – City Hall – Oct. 12th at 5:30 p.m.
- Dash for Dawn Center – Tom Varn Park – Oct. 13th – 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Walk with Mayor – Oct. 13th at Courthouse – 10:00 a.m.
- Good Neighbor Trail Bike Ride – 70 Russell St – October 14th - 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Founders' Day events – Week of October 14th – 20th (events to be determined)
- Methodist Church Trunk or Treat – 109 S. Broad St. – Oct 24th 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat at Bene's Career Academy – 698 S. Broad St. – Oct 26 – 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Brooksville Woman's Club Lecture Series on Fl. History – 131 S. Main St. – Nov 1st 6:30 p.m.8:30 p.m.
- Sarasota's Paranormal Investigation at Museum – 601 Museum Court – Nov 10th 8:30 p.m.-2:00 a.m.
- Junior Service League annual Freedom Fun Run-at GNT – Nov 10th (Time not available at print)
- Kiwanis Christmas Parade in Downtown Brooksville – Dec 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Mike Walker, Parks/Facilities and Recreation Director advised that there are plans to hold a Founders' Day Festival at the park in 2019.

Old/New Business

How to distribute information regarding the trail

Concern was raised on the need for some entity to coordinate the distribution of information regarding the use of the trail, events planned on the trail or notices of closure of the trail. The majority of the trail is located in the County and Chairman Morris hoped that the County would take the lead on it.

Bridges at Russell St/GNT

Mike Walker, Parks/Facilities and Recreation Director advised that two bridges at this location will be replaced with asphalt and are currently awaiting approval and exemptions from SWFWMD.

Membership on GNTAC

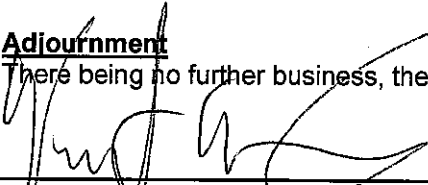
Mike Dolan stated that he would like to be considered for membership. Recording Secretary Battista advised that she would look to see if he had an application on file and if not, she would get one to him. It would need to be approved by City Council and she would work on that process.

Next Suggested Meeting Date – Thursday, January 17, 2019

This date was agreed to by consensus.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Vincent Morris, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 1-17-19