

MALABAR TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 11th, 2023, 6:00 PM

This meeting of the Malabar Trails and Greenways Committee was held at Town Hall at 2725 Malabar Road.

1. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER AND PLEDGE:

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. Prayer and Pledge led by Chair Thompson.

2. ROLL CALL:

CHAIR:	DREW THOMPSON
VICE-CHAIR:	MURRAY HANN
BOARD MEMBERS:	BOB WILBUR
	BARBARA CAMERON
	MARK GUNTER
GRANT/VALKARIA LIASON:	CRAIG SMITH – 6:44 Arrived
BOARD SECRETARY:	RICHARD KOHLER

- 3. Additions/Deletions/Changes-** Secretary Kohler requests to add RTP Grant as discussion item 7.f. Chair requests to add discussion item 7.d(1) South Brevard Linear Trail Master Plan. Consensus is reached to add both items as requested.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.a. Regular Trails and Greenways Committee Mtg Minutes of 11/13/2023.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by CM Wilbur/CM Hann.

Discussion: None

All Ayes: Carried 5-0.

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

- 6. ACTION ITEMS:** None.

7. DISCUSSION

a. Trail, Kiosk and Firebreak Conditions

VC Hann states that the trails are in excellent condition. The area north of Corey Road is still very deep, but the trails are flowing nicely. CM Gunter states he noticed the same. Chair asks if the wetland could be expanded to become a permanent water feature? VC Hann states it could be, but St. Johns has been difficult in the past. Chair states he would like to see a permanent water feature added in our reimagining of the Cameron Preserve. CM Cameron asks if any of the areas are designated as wetlands? Secretary Kohler states the Brevard County GIS Map has a wetland layer which shows several active wetlands in the Cameron Preserve. CM Wilbur states we may be able to improve an area, but he feels we should not add or expand any water features. Chair states he hopes to improve the north crossing of Briar Creek Blvd. He would like to have a sign that states “100-Acre Cameron Preserve Town of Malabar. This Al Tuttle Trail is part of the proposed 22-mile South Brevard County Linear Trail System.” He hopes to improve the viability of the trail crossing, and to provide additional safety. CM Cameron asks if we have the funds for this project? Chair states he is unsure, but

if we are hoping to preserve the Cameron Preserve, we should take action to mark it. Secretary Kohler suggests moving an existing map and welcome sign to the entrance? VC Hann states he likes that suggestion. Secretary Kohler states he can contact the EELs program and ask if we can post the sign and map on their fence. VC Hann states he feels we could use the existing posts and place the map and sign in front of the fence. CM Wilbur states he feels the sign is more protected from vandalism where it is, and that a second smaller sign should be added to the roadway. Chair again requests a new sign to be designed and placed along Briar Creek Blvd. VC Hann states we should install a proper crossing at the North trail crossing. We would need partnership with Palm Bay. Chair asks for support for one sign on the west side of the road, affixed to 2 2'x4's in the ROW. VC Hann states he likes the idea of having it on the west side, as any signs in the parking area will be hit by cars. CM Wilbur suggests creating a custom Welcome to Malabar Sign that includes the Cameron Preserve information. Chair states he would like to clean up the entrance to Town and increase the viability and exposure of the Cameron Preserve. VC Hann suggests to have Chair Thompson create a combined sign to be reviewed at the next meeting.

VC Hann states that Tracy Wright inquired about having a sign for the Kayak Launch. He states we do have an extra 3'x3' sign that we could give to her. Chair states he feels it is more than appropriate.

MOTION: CM Hann/ CM Gunter to provide one 3'x3' map to Tracy Wright at Turkey Creek Sanctuary.

Vote: All Ayes (5-0)

b. MSS Restoration Plan Observations and Concerns

Chair asks if there are any concerns about the project? He observed that there hasn't been much activity. Liaison Smith states he has not noticed any equipment. VC Hann states he has not seen any. CM Gunter states he believes the equipment has moved off site. VC Hann states the EELs program have marked selected trees to not be reduced during the project restoration. He also states he attended the EELs REAC meeting last month, and he asked how they plan to restore the core trail area. He was told by the program director that they do not know, but they have \$400,000 set aside for the project. They were asked to vote on whether e-bikes and one-wheels should be allowed, and he declined to vote to ban them. CM Wilbur suggests getting before and after pictures of the restoration area. VC Hann suggests getting drone footage of the area as well. Chair states we have wanted to have a virtual trail video of the area for a long time.

c. Cameron Preserve

Chair asks where we are on the Cameron Preserve restoration? VC Hann states he is still working on the specifications. Chair states he is still working to hang the Cameron Preserve Boundary Signs, and he plans to hang them soon. VC Hann also reinforces the importance of having the Boundary signs facing the right direction, with the highest concentration of signs near the corner.

d. Eagles Nest Trailhead

Secretary Kohler states he has contacted Heidi Kruger with the specification for the well. When they provide the final quote, it will be provided to Council for final approval. Chair states the Lt he spoke to was very interested in the dual tank holder for the trailhead. CM Wilbur suggests asking the FD to design the tanks. Chair states the tanks will also create pressure without the need for electricity. Liaison

Smith asks if there will be a T in the well to tie into for restrooms? Chair states not at this time.

d.(1) South Brevard Linear Trail

Chair states that VC Hann has been appointed the Chair of the BPTAC to discuss the South Brevard Linear Trail. Chair asks if VC Hann was able to chat with the L3 Harris Plant head. VC Hann states he has not, but will work to soon. VC Hann states the idea of linking with Valkaria and the Goat Creek access would be a great win for the area.

e. Next Field Event – TBD

Chair states that he and CM Gunter will hang "Cameron Preserve Boundary" signs soon. For the next work event, he would like to put in the fence. Could we do the fence before the rest of the dirt comes in at ENT? CM Wilbur states yes we can. Chair suggests a two day work event to install the fence, with day one being a prep day, and day 2 being the install. VC Hann asks if we should concrete the corners and the gate posts. CM Wilbur suggests only concreting the ends. Chair states we already have enough wood and materials for the project. VC Hann states he has a draft design already prepared. Chair reiterates the request for additional dirt at ENT. Chair suggests January 12th and 13th.

f. RTP Grant –

Secretary Kohler states VC Hann shared this possibility with him on Friday. He is in the process of reviewing it, but feels the Committee may wish to pursue these projects for a February submission. VC Hann states he has revised the plan for the underpass project. He feels the only thing left out is the build list of materials. He also feels that the underpass project would be a perfect fit for this grant. He would like to see a refreshed approval from Council. He also would like to see the Town support the financial aspects of it, as it is a major safety improvement. He would also like to include an overlook pavilion in the project, however, he feels the underpass is more important. He would need two things for this to move forward; 1, a positive motion from Council that they would support this and fund the match, and 2, approval from Mike Knight. He feels both of these are easily achievable. He would also like to do some experimental drilling in the area to test the compaction.

MOTION: VC Hann/CM Cameron to request approval from Council to pursue the RTP grant for the underpass trail.

Vote: All Ayes (5-0)

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Board Member Comments:** CM Cameron requests name tags for herself, CM Gunter and Liaison Smith. CM Wilbur states he will mow the ENT this week. Chair requests Staff call in the dig area before the fence install. CM Gunter states that on Thanksgiving Eve there were ATVs in the MSS. They entered from Malabar Road along the Briar Creek Blvd ROW. He did report it to the Sheriff. He also reported some apparent homeless activity, and the offending materials were removed.
- b. **Staff Reports:** Secretary Kohler informed the Committee that Council has decided to revisit the combining of board in January, but agreed in principle that having two boards is preferred.

- c. **New Business:** Secretary Kohler states that Council has selected January 8th as the date for their January RTCM. Would the Committee like to consider a Tuesday or Thursday meeting? Chair suggests January 16th. Consensus is reached.


9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss;

MOTION: HANN/HARVEY to adjourn. Vote: All Ayes. The meeting adjourned 8:21 PM.

BY:


Drew Thompson, Chair


Richard W. Kohler, Board Secretary

1/16/2024

Date Approved: as presented: