

MALABAR TRAILS AND GREENWAYS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 16th, 2024, 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 6:20 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 - EXCUSED
	MARK GUNTER
GRANT/VALKARIA LIASON:	CRAIG SMITH
BOARD SECRETARY:	RICHARD KOHLER

3. Additions/Deletions/Changes- None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.a. Regular Trails and Greenways Committee Mtg Minutes of 12/11/2023.

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

Discussion: None

All Ayes: Carried 4-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

6. ACTION ITEMS: None.

7. DISCUSSION

a. Trail, Kiosk and Firebreak Conditions

VC Hann states that the trails are very wet, but overall are in excellent shape. The west bridge of the super-secret trail is low, and could be raised, but is structurally safe. He also informed the Committee that a new trail has been added to the Turkey Creek area, in the northeast corner of the property. It adds about .5 miles of single-track trail to the area. The trail has been temporarily named Briar Patch. The trail has been approved by the Turkey Creek Sanctuary Land Manager. The trail is active on Trail Forks. Chair asks if the area will be altered during the habitat restoration project? VC Hann states the sanctuary land manager has stated she hopes to prevent any work in the area. Chair states there is a new path from the pump house east of Briar Creek Blvd. He suggests getting permission from Glenbrook to utilize the path to circumvent the EELs portion of the property. Secretary Kohler asks if this additional work will mitigate the issues at hand, or just exacerbate them. CM Gunter states he agrees this may instigate an issue and feels it may be best to let this issue lie. VC Hann states we should continue the status quo and have a backup plan in place in case an issue arises. He also states that the REAC Committee assured him that the program will not begin their restoration until the new trails are in place. CM Gunter states he has noticed some

of the trees along the red trail had markings. He is unsure if it is for a new trail or for trees to be preserved. VC Hann states he also plans to provide the map to the Sanctuary but hopes to add the new trail to the map before giving it to them.

b. MSS Restoration Plan Observations and Concerns

Chair asks if there are any concerns about the project? VC Hann shared pictures of the work taking place in Malabar Scrub. He expressed disappointment that the pictures show palm trees cut down across an active wetland. Why is the program modifying a wetland habitat? Chair asks if it would be worthy to ask the scientists at a Selection and Management Committee. VC Hann states he feels that we would not get accurate answers. He also states that he has seen less Scrub Jays in the area. CM Gunter states he hasn't seen the eagle in a while. VC Hann states he saw it on Saturday. CM Wilbur states that with the amount of Palm Trees they have cut down, it will create a large fire when they try to burn it. CM Gunter states he has seen active work being done in the southeast corner of MSS.

c. Cameron Preserve

Chair states he and CM Gunter were able to install several of the Boundary signs in the Cameron Preserve. They have installed them along the west edge of the property. They plan to coordinate with VC Hann to install more. Chair asks where we are on the Cameron Preserve restoration? VC Hann states he plans to work more on the specifications. He states that zones 4 & 5 have the best scrub and feels that mechanical reduction may not be necessary. He would suggest burning the area as is once the firebreaks are included. He would also suggest working on reducing zones 2 & 3. He also plans to install the remainder of the kiosk maps. He has the Sandhill Trailhead, Capon Street and the end of the Concrete Road. He will also begin building the bike repair stand. Chair states that the Boundary signs have been installed at an anti-vandalism height. CM Wilbur states the Fire Department has an anti-burn product, Fire Ice, we should spray on our signs and kiosks. Chair states he would like to include this in future planning.

d. Eagles Nest Trailhead

CM Wilbur states that a volunteer was able to mow the Brazilian peppers from the southern berm. He suggests getting nails farms to donate some hydroseeding of wildflowers. Chair asks if we could plant a hedge line to completely block the berm. CM Wilbur suggests we expand the entrance and exit, as he has trouble pulling his trailer out of the area. VC Hann asks how wide it should be? CM Wilbur states 30 feet should be sufficient. Chair showed several photos he took today of the property, showing the recent work done. Secretary Kohler informed the Committee that staff found a contract for soil testing. Would the Committee be interested in testing the dirt and using it for fill? CM Wilbur states he thinks that would be a great idea. Chair Thompson agrees. 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.

e. Briar Creek Blvd. Crossing Sign Discussion

Not Discussed.

f. Next Field Event – TBD

Chair states that the previous workday to install the fence line at ENT was postponed. He asks VC Hann when he would be free. VC Hann suggests Friday

January 26th. Several members are unavailable on that date. Chair then suggests February 9th. VC Hann states he needs to get the plans finalized. He also asks if the Committee is interested in having BMBA assistance. Consensus is reached to host a workday on February 9th and 10th, with Public Works delivering the supplies on Friday Morning.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Member Comments:

- CM Gunter asks for an update on the new Golf Cart path installed in Grant Valkaria. Liaison Smith states it was installed by the Town. CM Gunter asks if this is the type of trail we hope to have on the South Brevard Linear Trail. VC Hann states something similar is the goal. CM Gunter states he thinks the trail is excellent and looks great.
- VC Hann states he was able to contact the plant manager at Malabar Harris and will have a zoom meeting soon to discuss possibilities of the South Brevard Linear Trail in that area.
- CM Wilbur states he would like to have the Marie Street and Malabar Road intersection maintained. Chair states that he would like for it to be brought forward at an upcoming TPO meetings.
- Chair also requests Public Works clean up the downed leaves and fronds in the area.
- VC Hann states that the Public Works department was able to improve the North end of Corey. He suggests one more load when it is available and thanked them for their assistance.
- CM Gunter states he would like to finish installing the Boundary Signs.
- VC Hann states that he feels the RTP Grant may not be feasible for the underpass trail, but he would like to chat with someone at the program.
- CM Wilbur suggests having a porta potty on site at the Trail Day.

- b. Staff Reports: Secretary Kohler informed the Committee that the requested name tags have been delivered. Also, Council again discussed the possibility of combining the Parks and Trail Boards. They plan to revisit the topic again if membership is not increased. Staff requests Committee Members send any potential applicants to Town Hall.

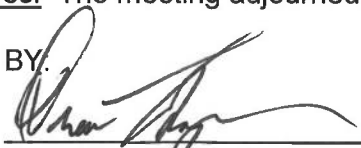
- c. New Business: None to discuss.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss;

MOTION: HANN/HARVEY to adjourn. Vote: All Ayes. The meeting adjourned 8:18 PM.


Richard W. Kohler, Board Secretary

BY: 
Drew Thompson, Chair

2/12/2024
Date Approved: as presented: