



Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) Public Hearing and Council Meeting



PUBLIC MEETING: Monday, February 29, 2016

TIME: 9:00 am

LOCATION: University of Florida Health Shands Cancer Hospital
Shands Auxiliary Conference Center Rooms 1204/1205
1515 S. W. Archer Rd., Gainesville, FL 32608

FGTC Members in Attendance for Thursday Council Meeting:

Brian Smith, (Chair) Appointed by the Governor-Trail User; Sam Carr, Appointed by the Governor-Trail User; Timothy Goldfarb Appointed by the President of the Senate-Trail User; Linda Chapin Appointed by the President of the Senate-Greenway User; Becky Afonso, Appointed by the President of the Senate-Greenway; Ralph Lair, (Vice-Chair) Appointed by the Speaker of the House-Greenway User; David Rathke, Appointed by the Speaker of the House-Trail User; Bruce Johnson Ph.D., Appointed by the Speaker of the House-Trail User(Late); Sine Murray, Florida Department of Environmental Protection(FDEP)(Late); Robin Birdsong, Florida Department of Transportation(FDOT); Timothy Parsons, Ph.D., RPA, Florida Department of State; Colleen Kruk, Water Management District(WMD); Shawn Thomas, Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA); Patricia M. Steed, Regional Planning Council; Chuck Hatcher, Local Government.

OGT Staff in Attendance for Thursday Council Meeting:

Samantha Browne, (Bureau Chief); Christine Small, Regional Land Trails Coordinator; Brian Ruscher, Regional Land Trails Coordinator; Britney Moore, Regional Land Trails Coordinator.

Announcements

Approve Agenda

FGTC REMARKS:

MOTION: Timothy Goldfarb

SECOND: Patricia M. Steed

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER:

Approve the [December 14, 2015- December 15, 2015 Meeting Summary](#)

FGTC REMARKS:

MOTION: Patricia M. Steed

SECOND: Sam Carr

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER:

Approve the [January 29, 2016- Conference Call.](#) Meeting Summary

FGTC REMARKS:

MOTION: Sam Carr

SECOND: Chuck Hatcher

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER:

DESIGNATION REQUEST

Designation Request: MERRITT’S MILL POND PADDLING TRAIL

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Merritt’s Mill Pond is fed by a first magnitude spring, releasing more than 64 million gallons of water per day. The 202-acre pond is four miles in length and popular for swimming, boating, fishing and cave diving, which attract divers from all over the world. Merritt’s Mill Pond is a mecca for fishermen and a 4.86 pound redear sunfish caught here was at one time the state record. Merritt’s Mill Pond is increasing in popularity as a prime destination for all types of paddlers, boaters, birders and anglers who enjoy the beautiful natural resource and excellent wildlife viewing.

Public Comments:

None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

None

COUNCIL VOTE: *ROLL CALL

PROJECT LIST

Yes List: Brian Smith, Sam Carr, Timothy Goldfarb, Linda Chapin, Becky Afonso, David Rathke, Ralph Lair, Robin Birdsong, Timothy Parsons, Ph.D., RPA, Colleen Kruk, Patricia Steed, Chuck Hatcher

No List: None

Notes: Abstain-Shawn Thomas

VOTES

A: 12

B: 0

NOTES: 1-ABSTAIN

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

DEFER

WITHDRAW

- () NOT APPROVE
- () OTHER:

FGTC SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT: BYLAWS

Approve Proposed Changes: Bylaws and the Addendum, Parliamentary Procedures

Public Comments:

None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

ARTICLE IV

Membership

(K) *ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT -- Any Council member missing more than one (1) meeting annually requires a consultation with OGT staff to determine the most appropriate action regarding future attendance, resignation, or removal. OGT staff will then communicate with the Chair for final resolution.*

ARTICLE V

Meetings

(A) *NUMBER OF MEETINGS*

Should the Council have a single voting item, then it is appropriate for a telephone conference or use of similar communications equipment that would allow all participants to hear each other at the same time.

COUNCIL VOTE: *ROLL CALL

Yes List: Brian Smith, Sam Carr, Timothy Goldfarb, Linda Chapin, Becky Afonso, David Rathke, Bruce Johnson, Ralph Lair, Sine Murray, Robin Birdsong, Timothy Parsons, Ph.D., RPA, Colleen Kruk, Patricia Steed, Chuck Hatcher

No List: None

Notes: Abstain-Shawn Thomas

VOTES

A: 14

B: 0

NOTES: 1-ABSTAIN

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

() APPROVE

(X) APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS

() DEFER

() WITHDRAW

() NOT APPROVE

() OTHER:

SHARED USE NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL: REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

CRITERIA

Brian Ruscher discussed the council’s role and timeline. The council developed the draft regional trail system criteria for public comment back in December 2015. In January 2016 the council adopted the regional trail systems criteria. This February 29 meeting is for OGT staff to present to the council a list of preliminary regional trail systems for further analysis for the council to amend or adopt. At the next meeting at the end of March, the council will receive in-depth regional trail systems analysis and recommend regional trail(s) to FDOT. The OGT staff looked at the criteria and created the preliminary list of Regional Trail Systems. The Regional Trail System had to be on the Priority Land Trail Map. It must also have met the FDOT Trail Legislation and the Florida Greenways & Trails System Priority Regional Trail Systems Criteria.

IDENTIFY REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEMS BY REGION

Britney-North/Brian-Central/Christine-South

North Region- Great Northwest Florida Coastal Corridor/Capital City to Sea Trails/ Northeast Florida Loop/ East Coast Greenway-Northeast Florida

Central Region- St. Johns River to Sea Loop/ East Coast Greenway-East Central Florida/ Heart of Florida Loop/ Shingle Creek to Coast to Coast Connector/ Nature Coast to Peace River Greenway Connector/ West Central Florida Trail System

South Region- All Aboard Florida/ Southwest Coastal Regional Trail/ Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

[PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

[List of Speakers](#)

[COUNCIL VOTE](#)

Capital City to Sea Trails / East Coast Greenway-Southeast Florida / St. Johns River to Sea Loop / Heart of Florida Loop / Amended Tallahassee-Nature Coast to Peace River Greenway Connector / Southwest Coastal Regional Trail / Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail.

Council Voted Unanimously for the seven Regional Trail projects to move forward for further analysis that will be recommended to the Florida Department of Transportation for consideration to receive Shared Use Non-motorized Trail funding.

[FGTC MEMBERS UPDATE](#)

[ANNOUNCEMENTS/ NEXT MEETING](#)

Thursday - March 31, 2016 (All Day Meeting) Tallahassee, FL