



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



PUBLIC MEETING: June 23rd , 2021
TIME: 10:00 am
LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

FGTC Members in Attendance for Council Meeting:

Brian Smith, Appointed by the Governor-Trail User; Marti Miller, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Shawn Thomas, US Forest Service; Jerrie Lindsey, Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission; Chris Rietow, Florida Regional Councils Association; Betsy Benac, Appointed by the President of the Senate – Trail User; Ralph Lair (Chair), Appointed by the Speaker of the House-Greenway User; Michael Nacheff, Appointed by the Governor – Greenway User; Jason Lauritsen, Appointed by the President of the Senate – Greenway User; Leslie Wheeler, Appointed by the President of the Senate-Greenway User; Parks Small, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Faron Boggs, Appointed by the Speaker of the House – Trail User; Sarrah Glassner, Appointed by the Governor – Greenway User; Brad Piepenbrink, Appointed by the Governor – Trail User; Chip Birdsong, Florida Department of State; Robin Birdsong, Florida Department of Transportation; Kevin Sweeny, Appointed by the Speaker of the House – Trail User

OGT Staff in Attendance for Council Meeting:

Samantha Browne, Bureau Chief; Britney Moore, Assistant Bureau Chief; Katie Bernier, Regional Coordinator; Justin Baldwin, SCORP Coordinator; Kari Baasch, Graphics and Design Coordinator; Charles Austion, Outdoor Recreation Program Assistant

Welcome

Welcome and introductions from Samantha Browne, OGT Bureau Chief and Katie Bernier, OGT Regional Coordinator

Approve Agenda:

FGTC REMARKS:

MOTION: Michael Nachef

SECOND: Brian Smith

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER:

Approve the March 30, 2021 Meeting Summary:

FGTC REMARKS:

Motion: Betsy Benac

Second: Michael Nachef

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER:

FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Office of Greenways and Trails Update – OGT Staff

Update including Office of Outdoor Recreation, Outdoor Florida Webinar Series, Florida Greenways and Trails System 5-year update kick-off, regional news and new employee hires.

Florida Wildlife Corridor Update – Jason Lauritsen

Discussed the background of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, the recently passed Florida Wildlife Corridor Act and Coalition Update

Designation – Camp Abel Parcels

FGTC REMARKS:

Motion: Brian Smith

Second: Marti Miller

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DESIGNATION

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER:

Designation – Allen Broussard Conservancy

FGTC REMARKS:

Motion: Kevin Sweeny

Second: Jerrie Lindsey

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DESIGNATION

APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

DEFER

WITHDRAW

NOT APPROVE

OTHER:

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES:

Brian Smith – Rails to Trails Designation for Pinellas Trail and upcoming grant opportunities

Brad Pienpenbrink – Enjoying Southwest Florida and outdoor pursuits. Working on a couple of small trail projects with local government

Michael Nacheff – Discussing connectivity with municipalities in Lee County. Working to create additional connectivity through the hospital

Sarrah Glassner – Continuing to enjoy the trails around the state

Betsy Benac – Moving forward with Gateway Greenway Trail with Manatee County.

Leslie Wheeler – Thanks to the Council for the two recent Designations. AARP interview about trails within Florida and accessibility

Ralph Lair – Two ribbon cuttings and grand openings in Pasco County

Chris Rietow – Ten RPC's received funding to provide an Economic Development Planner in each region. American Rescue Plan Act considering trails as part of the plan due to big emphasis on tourism. This could be a potential new funding source.

Parks Small – Congratulate OGT Staff on their promotions.

Jerrie Lindsey – Working to promote outdoor recreation around the state and working with FYCCN to hold events and programs for kids.

Robin Birdsong – SUN Trail FY21-26 work program being adopted on July 1st 2021 and will include 142 million dollars of SUN Trail funded projects. To date 16 SunTrail funded trails that have been opened. Coast to Coast Trail has 190 of 250 miles of trail open.

Marti Miller – Florida Forest Service now open to full capacity. Jennings State Forest has the Pioneer Trail which has been recently opened.

Chip Birdsong – Florida Mainstreet Program in conjunction with Florida Trust for Historical Preservation is kicking off the Preservation on Mainstreet Conference in Pasco County in July.

Kevin Sweeny – Looking forward to serving on the Council

Shawn Thomas – US Forest Service recently launched their national 10-year trail stewardship challenge and will be partnering with Office of Recreation in several states. Great American Outdoors Act, which is providing funding for maintenance on federal land, has opened and they are submitting projects for FY23.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting will be a hybrid, with the in-person taking place in Tallahassee

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Brian Smith

SECOND: Marti Miller