



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



PUBLIC MEETING: April 6th and April 7th, 2022
TIME: 9:00 am
LOCATION: Hammock Hall 3010 31st ST S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

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; Scott Stryker, Appointed by the Governor – Greenway User; Jason Lauritsen, Appointed by the President of the Senate – Greenway User; Wesley Stalnaker, 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; Chip Birdsong, Florida Department of State; Robin Birdsong, Florida Department of Transportation; Ralph Lair, Appointed by the Speaker of the House – Greenway User; Mike Stephens, Appointed by the Governor – Trail User; Sarrah Glassner, Appointed by the Governor – Greenway User; Stephanie Wardein, Appointed by the Governor – Private Land Owner; Jim Couillard, Local Government – Marion County Parks and Recreation

OGT Staff in Attendance for Council Meeting:

Samantha Browne, Bureau Chief; Katie Bernier, Regional Coordinator; Mikayla Panariello, SCORP Coordinator

Welcome

Welcome and introductions from Taylor Graham, Boyd Hill Nature Preserve Supervisor

Approve Agenda:

FGTC REMARKS:

MOTION: Jim Couillard

SECOND: Brian Smith

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

☒ (X) APPROVE MEETING AGENDA

☐ () APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

☐ () DEFER

☐ () WITHDRAW

☐ () NOT APPROVE

☐ () OTHER:

Approve the October 21 & 22, 2021 Meeting Summary:

FGTC REMARKS:

MOTION: Sarrah Glassner

SECOND: Jim Couillard

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

☒ (X) APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

☐ () APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:

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☐ () NOT APPROVE

☐ () OTHER:

FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Office of Greenways and Trails Update – OGT Staff

Regional Updates regarding Trail Towns, Paddlesports Training Program, trail completions and working with the Florida Wildlife Corridor on upcoming conference.

Pinellas County Update – Joan Rice

Update including the County's e-bike survey, Pinellas Loop trail segments and social media campaign targeted at trail etiquette and courtesy.

City of St. Petersburg – Lucas Cruse

Update regarding trail projects in the city including creating infrastructure around the city that will make bike lanes and other on-road biking safer for cyclists. Two vendors operating in the city with electric scooters, new bike-share program, and update to their plan.

East Coast Greenway – Robert Barto

Introduction of the new Florida Coordinator and overview of the East Coast Greenway Alliance, progress state-by-state, staff, and new projects in Florida. Update regarding the first through-runner of the entire greenway.

Vision Zero – Brandie Miklus

Overview of Vision Zero Program, its roots in Tampa and their successes in implementing safety guidelines within the city. Discussed new projects along the river front area near Downtown Tampa

Plan Hillsborough & Hillsborough County Update – Wade Reynolds and Christopher Fellerhoff

Updates regarding new trail projects in Hillsborough County including the Howard Franklin Bridge, and a new Greenways Master Plan that is currently being worked on.

Healthy St. Pete – Christie Bruner

Overview of the Healthy St. Pete programs, which include healthy virtual cooking for kids and parents, free healthy meal kits, after school events and yoga in the parks. Also work with non-profits, private entities and other government organizations to bridge gaps in health and wellness awareness.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Chris Rietow

SECOND: Brian Smith

10/22/21 – Welcome and Introductions

Welcome from Ralph Lair, Chair

Approve Agenda:

FGTC REMARKS:

MOTION: Jim Couillard

SECOND: Brian Smith

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

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() OTHER:

Mindful Moment – Healthy St. Pete & Energia Wellness Studio

Hands-on wellness experience with ways to de-stress during the workday and benefits of nature on mental health

Department of Transportation – Huiwei Shen

Overview of the SUN Trail program, the FGTS, regional trail corridors and benefits of trails.

Florida Greenways and Trails System – Samantha Browne

The FGTS Discussion will take place at the end of the other presentations

Pasco County – Tina Russo

Overview of Pasco County trail projects, updating the ranking system of regional trails, Penny for Pasco tax and working to create multi-use trails when there are road projects and new developments.

Forward Pinellas – Angela Ryan

Discussion of goals of the organization which include provide improvements for traffic flow and congestion and working to do that through creating trail networks within the County. Working to address safety by advocating through their partners, including a Vision Zero initiative.

DeBary Trail Town – Shari Simmons, Carmen Rosamonda and Mayor Karen Chasez

Overview of the trails, paddling trails and greenways within DeBary and amenities that are available to trail users. Discussion of future projects and improvements. The Council endorsed the Trail Town and presented the Trail Town sign to the Mayor and other City of DeBary staff.

Official Council Recognition of DeBary:

FGTC REMARKS:

MOTION: Brian Smith

SECOND: Jim Couillard

FGTC RECOMMENDATION:

(X) OFFICIAL COUNCIL RECOGNITION

() RECOGNITION WITH MODIFICATIONS:

() DEFER

() WITHDRAW

() NOT APPROVE

FGTS Continued:

Discussion regarding the written portion of the 5-year plan including goals and objectives:

- Ralph Lair – Trail Towns should be an objective. It's possible we don't need to change the goals
- Jason Lauritsen – For goals – Change first goal of old plan and replace with an ecological goal or have it as an objective under goal 2 in the old plan. Will give more thought on combining 2 & 3 (on 1st page). Need to change out “delineate regional trail systems”
- Sarrah Glassner – Promote the FGTS is the most comprehensive goal
- Shawn Thomas – Promotion goal – add education component to it. This is important given the influx of new people to FL and outdoor recreation in general. We should be highlighting objectives and tasks that have been completed
- Mike Stephens – Should combine goals 2 & 3 (on 1st page) and goal 3 (on page 2) into one goal. Need to include language regarding return on investment in the economic goal.
- Parks Small – As the work continues, the objectives should change. If sharing documents regarding the plan, we need to consider the Sunshine Law.
- Scott Stryker – Work goals 1 and 4 (on page 1) and goal 3 (on page 2) into one goal.
- Stephanie Wardein – Need to compile the objectives that have been completed and then focus on what still needs to be done.
- Robin Birdsong – Some of these suggestions for new goals might be objectives within the existing goals. Where is the FEGN at? What is that status and should we add it in?
- Samantha Browne – Will send out further information regarding the written portion of the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES:

- Shawn Thomas – e-bike policy update allows rangers and officers to have more discretion. Next year is the 40th anniversary on the Florida National Scenic Trail
- Jim Couillard – Update regarding the Heart of Florida Loop Trail. New facilities coming to Dunellon area. Dunellon is a potential Trail Town.
- Jerrie Lindsey Proxy (Kathy Burke) – Updates to FNST include boardwalks. New events and programs coming up including the Florida Nature Trackers and Go on a Quest.
- Mike Stephens – Update regarding Lake County trail projects that are new and ongoing
- Robin Birdsong – Update regarding SUN Trail projects and call for projects beginning again in late 2022
- Chris Rietow – Program beginning called Cycle the Art, which is a 1-hour long ride to view art in Tallahassee. Arpc.org/ride-on
- Jason Lauritsen – Upcoming summit April 12th – 14th in Orlando for the Florida Wildlife Corridor
- Parks Small – Florida Park Service license plates are now available and will benefit parks and trails

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT MEETING:

Late August/September and possibly in DeBary. Will send out poll.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Jim Couillard

SECOND: Chip Birdsong