

Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting, Sept. 8, 2016  
4:30, Fort Cooper Pavilion

The Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee Citizen Support Organization's Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 4:38, Fort Cooper Pavilion. Members present were Sherry Bechtel, President, Rich Roussel, Vice President, Directors: Dennis Reiland, Linda Reiland, Ken Spiliros, Steve Diez, Chris Moling, and Don Zutaut, and Dianne Drye, Trail Specialist. Guests included Jim and Candace McLean. Absent members were Kerry Smith, treasurer and Pam Atkinson, secretary.

The Treasurer's report was accepted and filed. The funds are distributed as follows: Balance: \$97,769.78, \$1016.88 was spent on projects. The Vanguard account is \$54,078 and \$5906 in the Endowment fund. The B of D minutes were approved.

Topic 1: Ride Update: Volunteers are filing positions. Food is being purchased. Sponsorships are in. T-shirts are ordered and being printed. Signs and banners are being updated and getting put up. Registrations are coming in ahead of last year. Everything seems to lining up nicely.

Topic 2: "Blessing of the Bikes" event in Floral City. Candace McLean presented information about the proposed "Blessing of the Bikes" on the Sat. before the ride to be held at the Florida Artists Gallery in Floral City. B of D was fine with the idea and offered to publicize it on Facebook. We cannot send out the information using our riders' e-mails because of the agreement we have on the registration form.

Topic 3: Mural: Linda Reiland requested approval to form a committee and begin planning for a new mural to be placed on the tin shed at the Inverness Trailhead. Dianne Drye requested that a new mural be created because the tin shed is in need of paint and with that, the mural would disappear. The B of D approved the committee and the committee will begin working after the ride is over.

Topic 4: FFSP Quarterly Meeting: Sherry Bechtel presented information on the Friends of Florida State Parks meeting and asked if anyone would like to attend. Information will be announced at the membership meeting on Sept. 15. The meeting is to familiarize members to the Friends' groups. The meeting is in Gainesville. The B of D voted to pay for fuel costs if anyone is willing to attend.

Topic 5: Lowe's Card/Bank of America Card: A lengthy discussion about the convenience and inconveniences and the rewards' programs for each card and of not having a Lowe's card and having only a B of A card when the work crews are buying materials for projects insued. The officers will talk to the Treasurer about the situation and resolve the issues when the treasurer returns from vacation.

Topic 6: Ice Machine: The ice machine that was repaired is broken again. The ice machine is needed by the volunteer crews and for any events that are held at the trailhead in Inverness. The B of D voted to purchase a new one and Don Z. will gather information and have it ready to present to membership on Sept. 15 since it will be above the \$1000 spending limit established by the B of D.

Topic 7: Trail Patching: Steve Diez announced that the SunTrail funding for repaving doesn't look good. With that in mind, Dianne Drye announced that the CSO can work with the county to patch the trail as needed. Several things have to be put in place before this can be done and they are listed as follows: 1. Need a Memorandum of Understanding with the CSO and Citrus County. 2. Need an understanding between the CSO and the county about the project. 3. Need to select the areas of the trail that should be patched first, second, third, etc. 4. CSO needs to set a limit on the dollar amount that can be spent at one time. 5. Need to create a joint supervision team(CSO member and Trail Supervisor) to monitor the project so that it's done to the satisfaction of the bill payer. 6. Find a CSO member to gather all the information and present it to the B of D. The B of D voted to proceed with information gathering.

Topic 8: Trail Crew Updates: Don Z. has been out on Workmen's Comp for 6 wks. due to an injury sustained while volunteering. He announced that the crew is down to one tree trimmer and a lot of branch haulers. Don Z. is looking for some new volunteers. Dianne Drye announced that it is her job to recruit volunteers. The CSO can also put an all call out on Facebook and in our newsletter. The B of D voted to spend up to \$200 to boost our Facebook presence in hopes of attracting some new and younger volunteers.

Topic 9: Bucket Truck/Work Crew Van: The purchase of a Bucket Truck and Crew Van has been put on hold temporarily while Don Z. recuperates and a couple of people have time to shop. Shopping is still happening but purchasing may be delayed a few weeks/months. A motion to purchase may be presented at the Membership Meeting on Sept. 15 if information has been gathered.

Topic 10: Policy for Sponsorships of Riders: Sherry Bechtel received an e-mail from Ft. Benning and a group of wounded warriors about being sponsored at the October ride and have their fees waived. There was discussion about setting a precedent and it was suggested that a policy be written. Rich Roussel agreed to write the policy. The policy would be a guide as to which organizations we would accept for legitimate fee waiving, how many per year, and how it should be managed. The B of D voted to accept this request but to consider other requests on a case by case basis.

Topic 11: Proper Procedures and Policies: Relates to the above discussion

Topic 12: Planning ahead for events: Dianne Drye expressed the need for planning in advance for events and grant writing opportunities. The State of Florida Parks and Recreation Department has a protocol to follow when undertaking these activities. She emphasized that we all need to follow the rules and regulations set up by the state.

Other discussions:

Next meeting agenda topics: increase in Membership fees, already approved, just need to make sure we institute it this year; putting the newsletter and minutes online on our website.

Submitted by Linda Reiland, substitute Secretary for Pam Atkinson