



RAILS TO TRAILS OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE, INC.

The Citizen Support Organization of the Withlacoochee State Trail Membership Meeting

Minutes:

Meeting information

September 19, 2018

5:31 p.m.

The Lakes Region Library

Guest Speaker: John Prichard from the TDC was scheduled to speak to the members regarding the partnership of TDC and the Trail. He was unable to attend.

At 5:31 p.m., Jim McLean called for the meeting to begin with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. In the absence of a President and our Vice President, the Secretary, Nancy Keefer, called for the election of chair pro tempore, Jim McLean, by acclamation. The motion carried, and Jim continued with the meeting.

Minutes from last meeting: Nancy Keefer:

The minutes from the April 20, 2018 meeting were read into the record. Motion by Al Cairns to approve the minutes as read; second by Don Zutaut.

Treasurer's Report: Lyn Floyd

- Total in the accounts is \$82,972.05; of that
 - ☞ \$53,063.55 is in the checking account
 - ☞ The balance is in the investment accounts
 - ☞ Income Year-to-date¹ (YTD) is \$29,768.65
 - ☞ Expenses YTD \$26801.40
 - ☞ Net for fiscal 2018 of \$2967.25

Motion by Al Cairns to approve the Treasurer's Report as read; second by Jerry Wilert, and Ken Spilios.

New Business:

Meeting location/date change:

The hours for the Citrus County Library System will change as of October 1, 2018; RTW will no longer be able to meet at the Lakes Region Library on Thursday evenings.

Chris Raby offered the use of the Fort Cooper Recreation Hall as an alternative. When the final decision is made – based on Wednesday availability at the library, members will be notified via the newsletter group.

¹ This includes some of the monies accrued from the last ride.

RTW CSO MEMBERS MEETING

Office of the President of the CSO is vacant:

- Sherry Bechtel resigned from the position of President of the CSO, and the position has been open since the middle of the summer
- Lyn Floyd nominated Al Cairns
- Al accepted the nomination and was voted into the position by acclamation.

Topical Updates:

Merchandise Update: Al Cairns

- The new jerseys are due for delivery in the next week
 - ☞ A campaign will begin soon
 - ☞ Moo-moo (the jerseys with the caboose)
 - σ None will be reordered
- The new coloring t-shirt is being introduced
 - ☞ They come with coloring pens

Ride Update:

- Lyn Floyd: Registered riders to date is 531
 - ☞ 218 are previous riders
 - ☞ 313 are new riders through CAAM
 - ☞ Increase for same date of 57 riders

Tree Update:

- More Live Oaks are going to be/have been planted
 - ☞ Locations have been determined by Ken and suggested by riders and Dianne Drye
 - ☞ 10 7-gallon trees
 - σ 5 along Gobbler near the shed across from where they used to sell leather goods (NE of Gobbler)
 - σ 5 on Kabrish, 3 on the south side, 2 on the north side
 - σ All 21 from last year near Eden have survived
 - ☞ Ken asked for a volunteer to water the trees while he's out of town
 - σ Dianne Drye suggested Bob and Dale Warren
 - σ Chris Keefer offered to do it on Sunday if no one is available that Monday.

Volunteer situation for the Bike Ride

- Karen Counts sent information that everything is filled

RTW CSO MEMBERS MEETING

Work Crew Update: Don Zutaut

- Fighting downed trees from heavy rains and heat
 - ☞ South end of the trail is mostly done, want to concentrate on getting the north end ready for the Ride
 - ☞ Last week (9/12) a tree came down at Nobleton
 - ☞ This week (9/19) as they were heading north, a tree came down on a neighbor's property
- A lot of work replacing kiosk and covered bench roofs – need to go to metal
- Caboose needs work – rotted areas, painting needs done
- ADA work will be done once we get funding

Patching Update: Jim McLean

- Section from 486S to Arlington: 60 spots done on 9/19
- About 20 more patches to get closer to Turner Camp Rd. scheduled for 9/20
- Next 2 more patches behind the dog place by the lake at Liberty Park
- Needs the sidewalk going into the bike shop
- That's it until Jim returns from his vacation
 - ☞ 45 or so left to go if the funds stay OK
- Don Z talked about the Good Neighbor Trail, and how easy it is to chip out the edges that way
- Jim then explained how the trails need to be dug out and redone (like a road)
- When the large trucks come in for parts of the repavement, we will need to trim the canopy.

Trail Update: Chris Raby

- The new director, Eric Draper
 - ☞ Challenging all CSOs across the state for the Unit Management Plan
 - ☞ Repaving fits the bill
 - ☞ The restroom at Ridge Manor needs to be replaced
 - ☞ If the project is expected to cost \$100,000 or more, and then PIP will pitch in (either 60/40 or 40/60)
 - ☞ The District CSO meeting will be in November
 - σ Al will attend the meeting for us with Rich and Chris
- Waiting for ADA funding
 - ☞ We are "supposed" to get the money from the state to fix the benches, kiosks, trail heads, etc.
- Floral City Water asked for an easement from Gobbler Dr to Ft Cooper Road
 - ☞ Net positive benefit (the amount they must pay the state) \$43,000.00
 - ☞ Chris has gotten approval to buy a tractor with that money

RTW CSO MEMBERS MEETING

Other New Business:

Bike Florida is coming to Inverness April 1-3

- They have asked us to man the last rest stop on April 1
 - ☞ They will pay us 200 for the rest stop
 - σ They will supply the table, pop-up tent, etc.
 - σ They just need 3 of us there to man it
 - ☞ We can
 - σ Put out a donation jar
 - σ Put out our maps and other information
 - σ Put out some merchandise
 - ☞ They will also be donating \$2500 to the trail
 - σ They want to make sure it's something (more or less) permanent to help the trail
 - We suggested
 - The GPS marker
 - A bike repair stand
- Good Neighbor Trail ride October 14
- Marion County is going to put a bathroom in Dunnellon Trail head at the kayak take-out spot on 484 (across from Swampy's)
- The plans for the Withlacoochee and Dunnellon trail connector with an overpass over 41 and 39
 - σ Maintenance: WST will maintain the extra mile to 41; office of Greenways will go from 41 to the Dunnellon Trail
 - σ The planning began in 2013
 - Citrus County put together a trail application in 2015
 - Sun Trail funding was approved in 2016
 - Design began late 2017
 - No right-of-way acquisition – no property needed to be purchased
 - Delmane will be relocated to the south a bit to make room for a 12-foot wide (2 lane) trail
 - 2-foot shoulders on each side
 - In 2017, we had permission from Duke Energy to go across their right-of-way; nothing got done, so they rescinded their permission
 - Will be 18½ feet above 41, and wide enough to not cause issues when 41 is widened (not yet on the plans – so 2050 is the first)
 - 90% of the plans are due in October of 2018
 - Final plans due December 2018
 - Being put out for bids in June 2019
 - Construction is to begin late summer 2019
 - σ The funding is almost there; Duke wants over \$1,000,000 to remove two poles, put raise transmission lines higher, and put distribution lines underground.
 - σ Current design \$5,200,000 + powerline relocation.

RTW CSO MEMBERS MEETING

Other New Business:

Dianne Drye asked Jim if he had any news about Cheryl Road Bike path.

- In Hernando County's work process right now
- Chris heard they want a crossing only used in an emergency – and it will be gated.
- There is no word on funding
- Jim heard it was to go across at Kettering Road, and he heard they are going to raise the road
- Dianne said that Steve said they're going to raise Croom-Rital Rd.

Lake Townsen:

- An access road will go from the boat ramp to the restrooms and add onto the existing road.

Lake Lindsey Road:

- There are plans to fix the crown in the road

Blue Bird Houses:

- Dianne had asked Heather Nagy if someone from Audubon would take over the care of the blue bird houses.
- Plan is to remove the houses and relocate them on metal posts; there will be fewer houses as well.
 - ☞ Will also look at how many are being used
 - ☞ Jerry Willert would be willing to take over this type of project and work with Regis Wilton on it
 - ☞ Dianne and Jerry discussed the houses a bit further (mounting, numbering, locations, and more)

Jim closed the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy N. Keefer