



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Meeting Location:
Government Services Building, First Floor Conference Room
1769 E Moody Blvd, Bunnell, FL 32110

Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 26 ,2024 at 10:00 AM

- 1) **Call Meeting to order - Roll Call at 10am**
Attended: Arnold Levine, Michael Dembosz, Reginald Kirven, Arthur Kuepper, Charles Cowart, Robert Knapp. Absent: Gary Johnson
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance – Moment of Silence**
- 3) **Review: April 24, 2024, meeting minutes**

Motion by: Robert Knapp
Motion 2 by: Arthur Kuepper
Vote Approved: 6-0

4) **General Business**

a) **Lehigh Trail – Land Management Plan Update- Frank Barbuti**

1) **Access Points and Trailheads:**

- Graham Swamp Trailhead completed
- Old Kings Rd not completed, but City of Palm Coast (CPC) completed the nearby Hidden Lakes Park, with parking and connecting trails and sidewalks access to the north, thus a de facto trailhead is in place less than 1¼ mile to the north
- The trailhead and parking south of, the adjacent to the trail and on the westside of Belle Terre Pkwy was not completed. But the CPC completed a parking area, trailhead, and restroom facility on the east side of Belle Terre Pkwy as part of the Horticultural Center and Dog Park there, thus meeting the intent and function of the last plan
- A trailhead at the western terminus of the trail at US Hwy 1 was not completed, nor was the intended purchase of the property near that terminus, but on the west side of US HWY 1 realized. However, plans are in place and funding secured to build a parking area trailhead at the western terminus but on the eastern side of US HWY 1 stating in 2025
- A de facto trailhead with parking and a connecting path to the trail was completed by CPC at Rymfire/Ralph Carter Park, about ½ mile north of the trails western quarter; the includes a footbridge across the Lehigh Canal that runs parallel to the trail on its northside
- Though not in the last plan, a paved connector trail, including a foot/bicycle bridge over parts on the Graham Swamp an elevated foot/bicycle bridge over SR100 was completed earlier this year, about 1.5 miles long

Andy Dance
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Leann Pennington
District 4

Donald O'Brien Jr.
District 5

- A set of foot/bicycle paths were completed along Town Center Boulevard south on the trail, connecting it to the sidewalks along SR100
 - The planned sidewalk connecting western terminus of the trail, running along the eastern side of US HWY 1 and connecting it to downtown City of Bunnell (CB) to the south has been completed.
- 2) Threatened and Endangered species surveys
- A complete Gopher Tortoise survey was completed along the entire length of the trail April of 2023, resulting in 26 active burrows being found
- 3) Invasive-exotic species
- An Invasive-Exotic Plant Survey was conducted along the entire length of the trail in the spring of 2023. All invasives-exotic plants were given GPS waypoints and their species, area covered, and treatment status were noted
 - Feral Hog removal has been conducted along the new connector trail from the trails eastern quarter south to SR100. Hog removal efforts started in early 2024, with roughly 50 hogs removed

b) Bings Landing Focus Group & Management Plans, public meeting postponed until late May- Mike Lagasse

- First, would like to thank PRAB for participating in the survey at the last meeting
- Since that meeting a public meeting had been held, with a good turnout (28-30 attended) asked same question from the survey PRAB had taken
- One week after that, an online survey was released to the public, fliers distributed to parks at and near Bings landing some data collected had some obvious themes such as access to the waterways, worries Bings was going to be turned into parking lot
- From this data collected a plan will be drafted to take to the Flagler County BOCC to be voted on or workshopped – side note would also be presenting the Graham Swamp Management Plan, the Betty Steflik Property amendment plan. If timing works out, might be able to preview at an upcoming PRAB meeting for input

c) Feral Hogs Tool- Demonstration- Mike Lagasse

- Due to volume of calls and spending 10-15 mins per call a need was realized for the public to report Feral Hog sightings. Working with Flagler Counties GIS department an app was developed for the public to report hog sights, damage, etc. Not only does it show their sighting, but shares other reported sightings as well. Also, the county can report on progress/actions of reports
- Another tool that's proven to be valuable is the "Pig Brig" or trap, from these reports we may set up a "PIG BRIG" in an area that has several reports and capture and relocated nuisance Feral Hogs

5) Staff Comments

- 3rd Annual Babe Ruth Florida State Tournament
- Sunshine Law meeting postponed until Legal can attend
- Palmetto Berry Picking Season starts July, illegal to pick berries on all county owned land
- Suspend July and August PRAB meeting:

Motion by: Robert Knapp

Motion 2 by: Arthur Kuepper

Vote Approved: 6-0

6) Committee Comments

Charles Cowart- appreciated the tree removal at the ST Johns CC, still working thru maintenance on building repairs

Robert Knapp – brought up maintenance needs to the View Finders at Bay Dr Park, will address in maintenance

7) Public Comment

Tiffany Wiggins- New applicate for board member. Wanted to introduce herself and sit in on a board meeting

8) Adjourn meeting at 10:16 am

Motion by: Arthur Kuepper

Motion 2 by: Robert Knapp

Vote Approved: 6-0

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING. THE COMMISSIONERS WHO ATTEND WILL NOT TAKE ANY ACTION OR TAKE ANY VOTE AT THIS MEETING.

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO MEET THE SPIRIT OF THE SUNSHINE LAW TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT COMMISSIONERS MAY BE PRESENT AT THESE DISCUSSIONS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE NUMBER LISTED ABOVE AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.