

## APPROVED

### Pinellas Trails, Inc. Work Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2017 Largo Library

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by President. Jan Hirschfield

Attendees included Jan Hirschfield, Chip Freeman, Scott Daniels, Richard Valentine, Bert Valery, Jim Wedlake, Dee Turner, Casey Morse, Bob Young, Bill and Phyllis Romanski, Thom Brown, David and Linda Feller, and Dan and Debra Kramer.

Minutes of the July Work Meeting were approved as revised.

#### ***Treasurer's Report – Chip Freeman***

Chip reported that it has been a slow year with not much activity although several projects are now in place including the NW Collision Center rest stop.

We had \$21,000 in expenses in 2017 that included paying for water fountains, benches and trash receptacles. Chip noted that in the case of NW Collision, \$6,000 of the approximately \$15,000 in total cost was provided by family.

We currently have \$170,000 in restricted and \$10,000 in unrestricted assets.

Chip also gave an overview of how we have spent our money since 2010 and noted that our efforts have made significant improvements in the trail. Over this period of time we have purchased 9 benches for \$4,000, 3 Golf Carts for \$14,000 and also paid for battery refurbishment and \$11,000 for water fountains.

There was a question regarding benches in the City of St. Petersburg, and Carol Gray reported that the City has an agreement with the county to put amenities in place as they see fit, and they will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep of these items.

#### ***Trail Construction Update – Casey Morse***

The recent Penny vote passed by 80%, which is the largest voter approval margin ever. Casey noted that the monies from this vote will not be used until at least 2020 and the county is still deciding which projects will be the top priorities, although there are certain projects, like the Orange Ave. bridge replacement that will automatically get top priority because of the immediate need. Other top priorities will include trail resurfacing.

There was a question regarding the completion date for the Orange Ave. overpass and as of now the target is December of 2018 at the latest. Casey said that the new bridge fabrication is being done off-site and will be transported to the location, which should minimize road closure times. Crosswalks and signals have just been installed at Orange Ave. and Alt. 19 to assist trail users in getting through the temporarily closed areas. There was a question regarding automated radar crossing signals that come on as riders/walkers approach, and Casey said that right now we are restricted to using what is approved by the county, but that these new crossing signals will be looked into.

2018 should be an exciting year for trail projects and growth.

It was mentioned that the Safety and Security Task Force receives a construction update after their meetings and Carol Gray is going to request that PT Inc. receive this update.

### ***Ranger Report – Carol Gray***

As expected, Carol said that the Trail was heavily impacted by Hurricane Irma, and debris removal activity also caused problems from ruts created by heavy equipment.

Jim Wedlake reported that he had been working on a list of parking places along the trail but said the project was much bigger than he anticipated and could use some assistance. He and Carol will get together to discuss further, possibly getting aux. ranger help.

Auxiliary Rangers are now being recruited to assist in Park closings and openings.

The July 20<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening of the Tri-County Trail in NE Pinellas was a huge success and generated a lot of media attention.

### ***Friends Agreement – Jan Hirschfield***

The latest edited version of the agreement is now with the county legal department. We will await their approval.

### ***BPAC Meeting Report – Jan Hirschfield***

Jan reported on several subjects brought up at the latest BPAC meeting:

Pinellas Trails, Inc. is now an official voting member of BPAC.

Creating green colored bike lanes to make them stand out better to motorists is being considered on Gulf Blvd.

The city of Largo is proceeding with their plans to create a route from downtown to the trail.

The latest update SR 60 overpass at the Courtney Campbell causeway was given. Richard Valentine commented that he had heard that causeway parking was free on the Hillsborough side but you had to pay on the Pinellas side. This was confirmed by several others in attendance.

### ***New Business –***

Scott Daniels commented that the success of the NW Collision project could be used as an example for other businesses along the trail to support it by donating for other similar projects. In addition, it is important for our organization to make ourselves heard regarding the Penny funds and how much will be used for the trail.

Scott suggested that this might be a good time to look into creating a committee/committees that would focus on important issues such as seeking donations for trail amenities, and lobbying efforts to see that our voice is heard by government officials.

It was suggested that we could call for fund raising volunteers via our Social Media outlets, however Richard Valentine said he was unsure about Facebook's policy regarding using their platform for solicitation purposes.

We will be having further discussions about this after the new year.

Bert Valery also said he was a bit concerned about not only the trail money, but whether the county has a specific route plan for those sections of the trail not yet finished, especially from Belleair south to the Gandy bridge area. He said he would get in touch with Brian Smith and set up a meeting with him and other people who could have input on this subject.

***Adjournment -***

The next work meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 17, 2018, which will be the annual meeting and ranger picnic at Taylor Park.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.