

Minutes

FTA Board of Directors Meeting 1/20/18

Conservation Center and Youth Camp, Ocala National Forest

Leslie Wheeler, President, called the meeting to order and roll call was taken:

Present

Officers:

Leslie Wheeler, President

Pete Durnell, VP Governance

David Waldrop, VP Trails

Carlos Schomaker, VP Development

Pam Hale, VP Treasurer

Jan Wells, Secretary

Excused: Adam Wiegand, VP Membership

At Large:

Megan Donoghue

Bill Turman

David Denham

Greg Knecht

Lauren Krebs

Quorum established

Staff/Guests:

Janet Akerson, Administrative Director

Dawn Brown, Chapter Chair Apalachee

Kay Ferrara, Chapter Chair Happy Hoofers

John Grob, Council Rep Highlanders

Mike Tamburrino, Vice Chair Highlanders

Howard Pardue, Chair, Chapter Council, Chapter Rep Apalachee

Joe Hale, member

1. Pete made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2017 meeting; David Denham seconded. Motion was approved.

2. Leslie gave the President's Report:

a. Mark Sheddan has resigned.

b. Feedback on the new meeting venue in Ocala National Forest was requested; it may be used in the future.

c. During the government shutdown staff cannot do trail work.

d. Kelly will check on question of reimbursement if FTA pays the approximate \$23,000 per month; there is a moral obligation to pay them. When more is known the Executive Committee will convene and decide.

e. If anyone wants to attend the Coalition meeting let Leslie know so she can inform Shawn.

f. We need a bigger presence in Tallahassee.

g. Proposal for February to be Florida hiking month is awaiting Governor's signature.

h. Chris Spurl of the Forest Service (USFS) has announced that the USFS is sending a message across the country citing the need for organizations to share stewardship and co-manage scenic trails.

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i. It was noted that the amount of money spent on recreation in Florida is huge - \$58.6 billion annually per handout from Florida DEP Greenways & Trails and Florida State Parks.

j. The Big Bend reroute is awaiting approval in Washington, DC. The FS will be contacted about this during "Hike the Hill" in February.

k. Leslie attended the Split Oak ribbon cutting for the Osceola re-route in Orange County. Thirty people were present, and it was filmed and can be seen on Orange County U-Tube stations. She noted that people had asked her about resisting the proposed expressway but she said that they needed to talk to local chapters.

l. The Suwanee River Management District has placed new kiosks showing hiking options. This is a great use of Regional Reps.

m. The latest 5-year plan is now ready and is very good. This is Shawn's work. A hard copy will be sent to Board members.

* Carlos noted that the Board members need to support this effort as the relationship of all stakeholders is much better today.

* Pam commented that the Board really needs to read this in relation to FTA financial goals.

n. Two large donations have been received:

1) \$50k unrestricted from a member of the Apalachee Chapter with request that a donation go to the Apalachee Chapter. It was agreed that \$3.5k would be given - \$3k for a mower and \$500 for the general fund.

2) \$100k for the building fund.

* Carlos noted that these donors have not asked to be anonymous.

* Greg suggested giving space in the *Footprint* to tell their story. This might foster other legacy opportunities.

2. FTA Financial Report from Pam:

a. July 2017- July 2018 financials updated for the new rent expense, moving costs (\$5k) and insurance. Projections show a brief deficit of \$10k but there should be a surplus by mid-year.

b. Carlos moved to accept; Greg seconded. The revised budget was approved.

3. Administrative Report from Janet:

a. A description of the floor plan of the new office space was given.

b. Stationery with the new address will be ordered.

c. The office will be closed from February 1-12. On February 5/6 Jeff has volunteers to move essentials.

d. Janet noted that old photos have already been digitized. Nothing with any mold will be moved into the new space. A small air-conditioned space may be needed for some of the books.

* Joe Hale noted that a new building can be put on the old site if setback requirements are met.

* Pam Hale noted that the UF School of architecture might be able to design a building for us.

* Lauren noted that any books related to Florida history might be of interest to the UF library.

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- e. There will be an open house in the new office after the annual meeting April 7th.
- f. A building committee was formed to develop a plan for office space after the present lease expires in three years. Members are Bill, David Denham., Janet and Jan who agreed to head it.
- g. MemberClicks is not ready yet. However, chapters will need someone who knows Excel and some training will be needed when it does go active.

4. Report from David Waldrop, VP Trails:

- a. There are 187 new members as a result of a year-end membership drive.
- b. There has been 37k recorded volunteer hours of which 25k were on the FT.
- c. There is a challenge of how to keep certification for chain saw and first aid up to date.
- d. There has been 14 miles of road walk removed from the FT.

5. Report from Pete, VP Governance:

- a. With respect to the governing documents on the website he noted that trail operational reports are not recent and Board documents are out of date. Meghan agreed to be the contact for governing documents and Pete will email her a suggested structure.
- b. He recommended that the Administrative Manual be abolished as there are many policies that are in the Administrative Manual that need review. Pete will send out these policies to the people responsible for these areas for possible changes and these suggested changes can be brought to the Board. It was agreed to have a year-end deadline for these proposed changes.
- c. Howard Pardue asked about the impact on Chapters. In response Pete said that we need a Chapter Guide and the Council needs to work on this. Chapters need to come up with an outline of what is needed. Fund raising and outreach targets should be included.
- d. Pam, who has been reviewing the by-laws, proposed that the vote for officers and Board members be detached from the annual meeting. Instead members would be able to vote online 30 days ahead of time. Ballots not returned would be considered a non-vote. Pam moved that this change be implemented next year (2019); Pete seconded. The motion was approved. It will be distributed for comments for a 30-day period.

6. Report from Meghan Donoghue, Nominating Committee:

- a. A write-up for soliciting candidates has been posted on Teams.
- b. There will be a recurring announcement through e-blaze, etc. asking only for a resume, not filling out an application. Interviews could be through video-conferencing.

7. Pete proposed a “Policy for Board Giving” with a minimum of \$25 per year.

- a. Carlos made a motion to discuss; seconded by Bill and the Board approved. After some discussion it was decided that a specified minimum level was not acceptable. Carlos made a motion to withdraw this proposal; Bill seconded and the Board approved.
- b. Leslie then made a motion that each member should be expected to make a gift that was significant to their own specific financial situation. And, that this commitment expectation be contained in any recruitment materials for Board members. David Waldrop seconded and the motion carried.

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8. Carlos, VP Development and Advocacy, reported on fundraising:

a. A plan for Fundraising in 2018 was distributed with key areas that should be focused on: Board giving, individual gifts, legacy/will solicitation, corporate sponsorship, events, and development capacity building.

b. It was suggested that donors should be listed in the *Footprint* and that memorial gifts and honor gifts should also be solicited.

c. October 6, 2018 will be the 50th anniversary of the National Scenic Trails Act. The location to mark the event will be central Florida but the specific place is still to be determined.

d. Hike the Hill is February 10-15th.

9. Leslie reminded everyone that the April 7th is the annual meeting in Gainesville starting at 8:30am to be followed by Chapter Council at 9:30am. Annual member awards will be given out at the April meeting. There will be an open house on the 7th at the new office. The Board meeting will take place the following morning, April 8th.

10. Pete moved to adjourn; Lauren seconded. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Wells, Secretary