

Minutes
FTA Board of Directors Meeting 4/8/18
Wyndham Garden, Gainesville, Florida

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

At Large:

David Denham
Ralph Hancock
Greg Knecht
Lauren Krebs
Bill Turman
Excused: Megan Donoghue; Deborah Schroth

Quorum established

Staff/Guests:

Janet Akerson, Administrative Director
Margorie Pugh, Black Bear Chapter
Kay Ferrara, Happy Hoofers Chapter
Joe Hale, Indian River Chapter

1. President's Report from Leslie:

- a. New Board members were announced: Ralph Hancock and Deborah Schroth; Adam Weigand has resigned.
- b. Reroute accomplishments were noted.
- c. The move to new offices has been accomplished.
- d. Board reporting of hours, in kind donations such as phone, driving distances are to be entered through the volunteer login starting from July 17, 2017. An email will be sent out with specifics.

*David Waldrop noted that FNST administration is different from FTA administration.

*Carlos noted that the original mission (Florida Trail system) encompassed other trails and should be changed to FNST only. To be discussed at the next meeting.

e. Members are reminded that when working with Shawn or Alex to give them support. We need to foster and strengthen our relationship with the Forest Service.

f. David and Leslie visited the Suwannee Chapter where Adam and Van gave a presentation.

g. Leslie will be going to Tallahassee to meet with Eric Draper, Director of Florida Park Services.

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* Carlos noted the need to acknowledge that trail maintenance is a hobby for most of the maintainers – “clip and walk”. We need to train and develop more maintainers.

2. FTA Financial Report from Pam:

- a. For FY17, preliminary statements shows we ended the year with a \$28K surplus.
- b. The FY18 budget passed by the Board assumed a small (\$10.7K) deficit resulting from adding HQ move costs. However, at Q2 mid-year we are running a \$27K surplus (\$36K FTA side, less \$9.1K deficit on the cost-share side).
- c. FY18 Q3 had just closed so those results were not yet available but would be posted as soon as the statements are available and reviewed.
- d. There was \$5,000 spent on moving expenses and \$5,000 spent on signs for Trails.
- e. It was noted that the Land Acquisition Fund is \$48,000 but \$33,000 can't be used due to restrictions placed by the donor.

*Greg noted that there is a Critical Opportunities Fund that might be investigated.

* Jan called for more attention to “in memory” and “in honor of” gifts for funding needs. Pam noted that “in memory” gifts go to the endowment but that the Board could divert these gifts to other funds.

*Pete called for a review of our investment policy.

*Janet noted that a new truck is needed. She will see about a loan and said the cost would be \$15,000 - \$20,000 for a decent truck. Carlos said he would look into other options such as rental car foundations.

3. Development and Advocacy report from Carlos:

- a. Carlos and Alex attended the Outdoor Retail Equipment convention in Colorado where FTA had a table. He noted that this convention meets three times a year and this year's remaining dates are: July 23-26 and November 11.
- b. The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Act will be held in the Deland Sanford Center October 5-6-7th.
- c. Hike the Hill was held in February. Congressmen/women in whose district the FT passes through were visited. As soon as the date is set for next year we should plan to attend.
- e. There will be a similar type meeting in Tallahassee in May.

4. Administrative report from Janet:

- a. There is a need to find two potential Board meeting locations outside of Gainesville. We have a space budget of \$1200 or less for a 20-person Board meeting and a Chapter Council meeting for 30-40 persons.
- b. She reported that Member Clicks should be coming in June.
- c. Janet has found new thank you cards for donors which are very professional.

5. Trails report from David:

- a. It was brought to his attention that in the Suwannee River Water Management Plan bicycles are not mentioned and the plan has not been reviewed for the use of bicycles. All water management plans need to be reviewed as to this issue otherwise there will be no enforceable means to stop them on the Trail. Regional representatives will be working on this.

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b. MICCO Bluff reroute has been completed (eastern reroute along the Kissimmee River). The Board congratulates the Tropical Trekkers and staff for completing this section over the last 3.5 years.

6. Governance report from Pete:

- a. Updated government documents need to be put on the website or moved.
- b. There needs to be a push to keep reports up to date.
- c. Many of the financial documents can be archived. Only the most recent should be on the website.
- d. Board documents include: annual meeting minutes, Board minutes and possibly other relevant documents.
- e. Specific areas are to be reviewed and items recommended for disposition.

*Pam called for review of other policies such as the issue of financial statements.

*Leslie asked where should we archive? – hard copy, electronic (cloud)? There must be a document retention policy and we must make sure it is accessible. She noted that we need a document control policy and the VPs of areas must do research on what is required by law.

*Pam has done a by-law review for the voting of officers. She recommends taking out “write in” in the call for nominations so that candidates can be vetted. Pam will take action to strike this. For those who do not have computer access they can request a ballot from the office.

*Carlos said we should look at other institutions and at the Florida statute.

*Pete noted that the nominating committee needs to start now to prepare for next year’s election.

7. Other Items:

- a. Alex needs letters of support for Forest Service actions.
- b. We need a part-time technical person to keep the website up to date.
- c. Pam stated that we need a definition of committees, including ad hoc, and a paragraph to define responsibilities and limitations, as well as the authority to create and dissolve these committees.
- d. Kay Ferrara asked a clarification about the number of activity leaders required on a hike. Do chapters have the right to increase the number from one to two? It was agreed that chapters may increase minimum requirements for activity leaders.
- e. It was noted that South Florida’s conference is December 7-9th.
- f. The Board agreed that demolition of the old office building should take place. Jan noted that not to demolish the building would result in a greatly reduced price for the land. The decision to rebuild will be made after the site has been cleared and if current building requirements can be met.
- g. Greg stated that in the state budget some Florida Forever funds are now included. He noted that the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund expires September 30th. A letter needs to be sent to the delegation members reaching out on this concern.
- h. Pete said he will circulate a draft Board restructuring plan to the ExCom who will discuss and then send to the full Board.

Leslie made a motion to adjourn; Greg seconded. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Wells, Secretary