

**Minutes**  
**FTA Board of Directors Meeting 10/20/18**  
**Wesley United Methodist Church, 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  
Jan Wells, Secretary

*At Large:*

David Denham  
Megan Eidel  
Ralph Hancock  
Greg Knecht  
Bill Turman  
Excused: Lauren Krebs, Pam Hale

**Quorum established**

*Staff/Guests:*

Janet Akerson, Administrative Director

1. President's Report from Leslie:

- a. Last meeting's minutes to be approved via email.
- b. Meeting will conclude at 2:30pm for a joint meeting with Chapter Council.
- c. Church was paid \$300 for meeting space.
- d. Board hours need to be reported along with money spent for hotel and mileage. Leslie will enter hours for Board meetings.
- e. On October 1st FTA attended a Planned Acquisition meeting held by DEP in Sarasota
- f. The Trail Festival was reported to be a great success.
- g. The Ranger Association asked for a donation for the loss of houses.

\* Janet noted that there was no loss of tool caches but damage from an overturned trailer was covered by insurance; however, there is a need for greater insurance coverage.

h. The Florida Wildlife Corridor summit will be held November 30 at the Alachua Land Trust. FTA will probably send Jeff.

\* Ralph reported receiving a letter from someone who wants to have a run in Green Swamp West. The request was sketchy. Deborah made a motion to ignore this request which was seconded by Greg. Motion was passed unanimously. Ralph will monitor any further developments in this matter.

2. FTA Financial Report:

- a. Currently \$165k in the black due to \$150k from two donations.

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#### **3. Development and Advocacy report from Carlos:**

a. There was no charge to attend the Trails Festival and the cost of the Festival will be used as part of our match for Cost Share. REI was very pleased with the turnout at the Festival.

\*Bill stated that he was very disappointed when he learned that Travel Country Outfitters who had been invited to participate in the festival, was later snubbed based on REI deciding that they did not want them there. He reminded the Board that TCO has been an outdoor mainstay in the Orlando area for 40 years, and has supported the FTA, both at the chapter and state level, and their company logo has been proudly displayed on the FTA webpage. He expressed his concern about REI controlling the decisions of the FTA and recommended that we need to have our position concerning how we treat corporate sponsors defined, approved by the board and documented in our controlling documents.

\*Deborah noted that a clause is needed limiting the number of competitors before the next event and a tiered level of sponsorship should be considered.

b. FTA is a beneficiary of an estate but the value is unknown at this time.

c. We are considering trademarking "building more than trails".

#### **4. Administrative report from Janet:**

a. A part-time person has been hired.

#### **5. Trails report from David:**

a. Waiting on the final agreement for the Stafford easement.

b. David made a motion to accept the memorandum of understanding between Dan Prescott and the FTA for a trail reroute of 946 ft. across his property. Modifications were requested to include a more detailed description of the corridor and to provide advance notice of intent to invoke the recision clause. Deborah seconded the motion subject to these modifications. Motion was approved.

c. Seminole Forest reroute will remove road walk off Route 44. It's not official until agreement is made with the Forest.

d. Emergency response on the Trail in any county has been created.

e. Trail Training in wilderness first aid and trail skills has been conducted.

f. Twenty-one work parties have been scheduled, the most ever.

g. Hurricane damage in the panhandle closed some of the Trail. Some volunteers violated closures and this point will be added to the Trail Manual.

h. There is an issue with DOT about signage on roads where the Trail crosses. Shawn will address this with state officials and at the end of first quarter 2019 there will be follow-up.

i. Harmony will allow the Trail to pass through because Osceola County is requiring it.

j. Shawn is working on a priority list for reroutes. An assistant program manager will be hired by the end of the year.

#### **6. Governance report from Pete:**

a. Items from the old administrative manual will be incorporated in documents for the Board.

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- b. Deborah Schroth was sworn in.
- c. "Teams" is still active.
- d. Documentation policy and retention policy needs to be updated.
- e. An emergency policy for events such as hurricanes needs to be developed.

\*Meghan suggested that pictures of the Trail's infrastructure should be taken yearly.

#### 7. Other Items:

- a. Meghan gave an update on the move to online voting.
- b. Deborah will submit a revision of the election of officers process.
- c. A revised mission statement was put forth by Ralph, with second by Greg, and approved. (see below).
- d. Jan moved that the inherited property in Pine Island be listed with a realtor and sold as soon as a recorded deed is received. Deborah seconded and the motion was passed.
- e. Carlos suggested that we honor this donor, Ileana Sisson, in some way. He will follow-up on this.
- f. Jan made a motion to list the now vacant lot on US Route 441 for sale at \$79,000. Ralph seconded and the motion was passed.
- g. The need for an Executive Director and the use of a search firm to find candidates was discussed.
- h. The January Board meeting was moved to the 26<sup>th</sup>; April 6<sup>th</sup> is the annual meeting.

Pete made a motion to adjourn; David seconded. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Wells, Secretary

#### New Mission Statement:

The Florida Trail Association builds, maintains, protects, and promotes the unique Florida National Scenic Trail (Florida Trail), along with a network of hiking trails throughout the state of Florida. Together with our partners, the Association provides opportunities for the public to contribute to meaningful volunteer work, engage in outdoor recreation, and participate in environmental education.