



## MEETING NOTES

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**City of Tampa Greenways & Trails Citizens Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting  
July 18, 2006 6:30pm – 9:00pm  
Kate Jackson Community Center  
821 S. Rome Avenue, Tampa, Florida**

**Attendees:** Kevin Dwyer, Jill Buford, Randy Stribling, Stanley Kroh, Mary Helen Duke, Mo Rinaldo, Ross Ferlita, Kimberbly Springer, Alice Price, Tom Feaster, Sandra Sroka, Jim Hartnett, Larry Weatherby, Veronica Hills, Tom Bryan, Sally Flynn.

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The City of Tampa Greenways and Trails Citizens Advisory Committee (GTCAC) typically meets the second (or third) Tuesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m. This month's meeting was held in the Kate Jackson Community Center (821 S. Rome Avenue). The following bullets summarize key issues from the meeting:

### **Introductions/Minutes**

The meeting was called to order and everyone introduced themselves. There were no prior meeting minutes to approve; they will be provided at a later date. A quorum was present.

### **Presentation**

#### **C. Trail Mileage Markers/Safety Railings/Gateway Signs/911Emergency-Status Report**

The City of Tampa has made excellent progress in the acquisition and development of the trail identification signs. The City identified eight major trail crossings as "Gateway" points on the trail system to be marked with artistic signs. The 10-ft, aluminum signs are designed in a ribbon-like shape and will feature trail interpretive maps, fun facts, graphic artwork, and painted tiles specific to each trail's theme. Ms. Duke provided photos and samples for the committee to review. The City plans to install five of the signs this fiscal year. They have received the frames and are currently taking bids on the graphic artwork and are making plans for the children's art element (tiles). Hopefully, artwork for the first sign will be completed in time for Florida's Greenways and Trails Month in October.

The City is beginning to install the artistic safety railings along some of the riverside trails. The railings exhibit the ribbon imagery and color scheme similar to the gateway signs. They will install four railings in the Blake High School area.

The City will install trail identification markers at other key locations within the trail system. These markers will not be as large as the gateway signs, but they will be characterized by the same ribbon imagery and color scheme used on other trail signage. In corporation with the trail identifiers, the City would also like to add mile markers to assist trail users in calculation of the distance walked, jogged, biked, etc. They are considering several different approaches at this time. The City may incorporate the

mile markers with emergency call stations along the trails and will consider providing public geographic information systems (GIS) access to trail maps for users to calculate distances. The public will also be able to estimate distances along the trails by use of the interpretive maps, trail brochures, and pedometers.

Upon communication with the local emergency dispatchers, a global positioning system (GPS) is not the most reliable way to locate points along a trail system due to triangulation issues. Therefore, the mile marker concept with station call boxes may be the best option. However, the city and county systems need to be unified. City of Tampa and Hillsborough County have already begun to coordinate to identify the trails to update the GIS system. In fact, the County GIS Manager is also communicating with outlying counties, as well. Having this system in place with call boxes and/or mile markers will allow emergency dispatchers to identify the location of an emergency much easier.

## **Old Business**

### **D. Regional Trails Priority List-Status Report**

The new Regional Multi-Use Trails Map will be provided at the next meeting.

### **E. Riverwalk-Status Report (Provided by Kimberly Springer)**

Segment 4 (Tampa History Center to Channelside Drive (Beneficial Bridge))-The City is working with Hillsborough County to integrate the Riverwalk into History Center design. Construction is not scheduled to be completed until mid-2008.

Segment 8 (Platt Street Bridge)-This segment is a local agency program (LAP) segment that must be approved by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The City has submitted plans to FDOT and anticipates a construction start date in early fall.

Segment 10 (Brorein Street Bridge)-The City is in the scoping phase for this segment.

Segment 11 (Trump Tower)-The foundation work should be completed in August 2006. The building, including adjacent Riverwalk segment should be completed by mid-2008.

Segments 13-15 (Kennedy Plaza)-Need to get approval on a plan to provide ADA access to Museum tower.

Segment 16 (Curtis Hixon Park)-The consultant is redesigning park and incorporating Riverwalk into plan. There should be a public meeting opportunity very soon.

Segments 19-24 (The Heights)-The developer has agreed to incorporate Riverwalk into the Heights Master Plan, which include the segments between Cass Street and North Boulevard. Water Works Park will be designed by Hardeman Kempton.

Overall, the Riverwalk is approximately 20 percent complete. The City has commitments from developers for an additional 40 percent, leaving about 40 percent to be determined. Funding is critical and the City is investigating potential public and private sources. They have made requests to the state and local governments and have launched a fundraising campaign to generate financial support. They are in the process of hiring a grant writer to search for funds for numerous downtown projects. The latest fundraiser will be the November 2006 Duck Derby at Curtis Hixon Park. The Riverwalk website is: [www.tampariverwalk.net](http://www.tampariverwalk.net).

## **F. Development Review Report**

The City anticipates that approximately 80 percent of the projects currently under review will be approved, which would add approximately 5 miles of trail to the existing system.

## **G. Membership Report**

The committee decided to add a citizen at-large position to the membership and voted to amend the GTCAC Bylaws and Rules of Procedures accordingly. Motion made by Kevin Dwyer, seconded by Sandra Sroka. Motion passed unanimously.

## **H. Blueways**

The Heights development will incorporate a number of public-use boat slips, as well as a canoe/kayak launch area at Water Works Park. There are also some wake zone issues in this area and an ad-hoc subcommittee was established to look into this issue. City staff recently participated in a statewide workshop regarding placement of waterway markers/signage. There may be an opportunity for the Tampa-Hillsborough Blueways Committee to investigate these funding options further; however, final approval of the City Council would be necessary. The next Blueways Committee meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2006.

## **I. Veteran's Expressway Widening PD&E Study-Status Report**

The City requested that the study team (FDOT/URS Corporation) evaluate the incorporation of trail and pedestrian amenities into the Veteran's Widening project. The City would like to establish a trail connection from the Courtney Campbell Causeway to the Upper Tampa Bay Trail. Early estimates indicate that an off-road facility would be too expensive (\$13 million for construction, plus right-of-way); however, the study team is considering other options.

## **J. I-4 Connector (Z-Alignment) McKay Bay Nature Park Mitigation/McKay Bay Greenway**

The City is working with FDOT to mitigate impacts to the McKay Bay Nature Park. As a part of the roadway design, FDOT is proposing to incorporate a 12-ft paved pathway south of the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to 39<sup>th</sup> Street. To mitigate impacts to the Park, FDOT is proposing to build a grass berm from 39<sup>th</sup> Street to 50<sup>th</sup> Street for the City to pave at a later date. The City has asked for the paved trail to continue east from 39<sup>th</sup> Street to 50<sup>th</sup> Street; FDOT only wants to provide the grass berm. The City has also requested clarification on access provisions for the Guterrez, ELAPP, and TECO properties. The City is reviewing the latest plans and is evaluating whether or not to keep pushing the request for additional paved trail. Because FDOT has incorporated a number of trails into past roadway designs, the City wants to maintain a good relationship with the state. The CAC decided to draft a letter to City's Parks and Recreation Department (with a copy to FDOT) requesting consideration of paving the eastern portion of the trail. Motion to send the letter to Karen Palus with copy to FDOT was made by Tom Bryan and seconded. Motion passed unanimously after discussion on letter content. Primary points to include in the letter include: regional impacts; multi-modal alternative; request trail construction on berm as mitigation

### **K. Greenways and Trails Master Plan Map Amendments (Review and Approval to forward to City Administration/City Council)**

The City has been working on a number of changes to the Greenways and Trails Master Plan text and map. The City made the text more specific, updated the design standards, integrated the new signage, imagery, and color schemes, and incorporated references to the CAC. Ms. Duke presented the draft document. Ms. Duke is almost finished compiling the report, and will try to expedite the review process. It will take 2-3 months for internal reviews and 2-3 months to get on the City Council's agenda. Additional copies will be available at the next committee meeting. The GTCAC voted to forward the proposed amendments to City Council, once the staff polishes the document. Motion made by Kevin Dwyer, seconded by Sally Flynn. Motion passed unanimously.

### **L. National Trails Day/McKay Bay Nature Park Trail Maintenance/Clean-up**

National Trails Day (June 4, 2006) was a big success. Several people showed up to help clean up the trail system. Ms. Duke commended Stan Kroh for his outstanding service.

### **M. Tampa Heights Greenway-Status Report**

The City has received FDOT latest revisions and improved cost estimations for the incorporation of approximately ½ mile of trail (developed in 2 phases). Funding should be available through miscellaneous sources. Amenities may include: interpretive map, benches, water/dog fountains, and lighting enhancements. FDOT has purchased the Palm Avenue Church. If the trail is moved, the cost estimates may change.

### **New Business**

#### **N. Segment Prioritization Ranking**

Discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **O. River Tower/Sulphur Springs Trail-Status Report**

The City is in the process of removing invasive plants along the trail and securing FDOT air space agreement.

#### **P. Cross Creek Boulevard Widening-Status Report**

The City has plans in house for review and sidewalks are in place.

#### **Q. Bayshore Boulevard Trail-Public Education and Safety**

Recent news stories have begun to spotlight trail safety issues; therefore, the City is placing even more emphasis on making the trails safer. A new gateway sign with trail etiquette and interpretative map will be installed in this location this year.

#### **R. MacDill Trail (Bayshore Boulevard to MacDill Avenue)**

Nina Mabileau will be asked to present the Bayshore Conceptual Plan at the next meeting.

### **S. Trail Surface Product Evaluation (Flexi-Pave)**

The City is planning to install a Flexi-Pave surface to the MacDill Trail between Westshore Avenue and MacDill Avenue. This is a rubberized surface that absorbs the shock of typical running, jogging, and walking movements on the human body. The City of Clearwater has installed 150 ft. of Flexi-Pave near Del Oro Park. Ms. Duke requested that GTCAC members visit the trail and provide feedback on surface material, particularly from a rollerblading perspective.

### **T. David West Park-Mulch Trail (1,400 lf) and U. Takomah Park-Mulch Trail**

The City recently installed mulch trails to the David West Park and Takomah Park.

### **Other Business**

### **V. Other Business**

No other items were introduced for discussion.

**W. Next meeting Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. at the Kate Jackson Community Center, (821 S. Rome Avenue, Tampa, Florida).

**ADOPTED**  
**January 16, 2007**

### **Meeting Handouts (Enclosed)**

- Meeting Agenda
- Regional Multi-Use Trails Map
- Tampa Riverwalk 2010 Plan
- Riverwalk Status Update-May 12, 2006
- Greenways and Trails Development Review
- City of Tampa Greenways and Trails CAC Meeting Schedule
- City of Tampa Greenways and Trails CAC Mailing List
- City of Tampa Greenways and Trails CAC Voting Members
- 2005 Proposed Greenways and Trails Master Plan Amendments (Map)
- 2005 Proposed Greenways and Trails Master Plan Amendments (Spreadsheet)
- Tampa's Greenways and Trails (Map with List on Back)
- Hillsborough Greenway System
- University of South Florida 2005 Campus Master Plan Update
- U.S. 92/S.R. 600 (Hillsborough Avenue) Fact Sheet-March 2006
- BPAC Letter (May 15, 2006) Regarding Hillsborough Avenue Safety Improvements
- Armenia Avenue Widening Information
- I-75 (SR 93A) from North of Bruce B. Downs Blvd. To South of S.R. 56 Fact Sheet-June 2006
- City of Tampa Public Works Department-Sidewalk Petition
- 2006 Hillsborough County Bicycle Map

### **City of Tampa Action Items**

- Provide meeting minutes at next meeting.
- Continue coordination of trail mileage markers, safety railings, gateway signs, and 9-1-1 emergency issues.
- Coordinate GIS update to include trail info and post online.
- Provide updated Regional Multi-Use Trails Map at next meeting.
- Coordinate addition of citizen-at-large position to the voting membership.
- Investigate funding options for marking wake zones on the Hillsborough River near the Heights area.
- Write letter to FDOT regarding the I-4 Connector mitigation efforts for the McKay Bay Nature Park.
- Finalize Greenways and Trails Master Plan Amendments and expedite review/approval process.
- Discuss Segment Prioritization Ranking at next meeting.
- Present Bayshore Conceptual Plan at the next meeting (Nina Mabileau).

*The foregoing text is deemed an accurate account of the subject meeting. Please call me at 813-281-8302 or email me at [ajprice@pbsj.com](mailto:ajprice@pbsj.com), if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.*

*Ajp*

Drafted By: Alice Price

Submitted by: Mary Helen Duke

Adopted on: