

Minutes of the Fairfax County Trails and Sidewalks Committee

February 11, 2009

Article Prepared By Robert Michie (Lee District)

Revision 1.1

Last Reviewed March 10, 2009

Members Present: Robert Airaghi (Sully); Wade Smith (Dranesville); Douglas Pew (Hunter Mill); Robert Michie (Lee); Peter Christensen (Mount Vernon); Roger Diedrich (Providence); Jan Reitman (Mason); Lisa Wiley (Springfield); Dennis Frew (WABA); Dan Iglhaut (NVRPA); Mark Tipton (FCFCA); Jenny Pate (Park Authority).

Staff Present: Sheng Leu (DPZ).

Visitors: Evan Pritchard, Attorney-at-Law (Walsh, Colucci)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Wade Smith, Vice Chairman. Robert Michie was Acting Secretary.

Staff Report (Sheng Leu)

1. **Including Trail Easements into the County GIS System** – deferred.
2. **Web Page** – The County Webmaster presently has a heavy work schedule. There are several dead links on the Committee's site, and the Contact List needs updating. In response to a question, Mr. Leu said that our Committee's meeting minutes are posted only after they are approved.
3. **County Response to Committee Request on Trail Waiver Policy** – The County responded on January 5 2009. See the entry later in these minutes.

Election of Committee Officers for 2009: By unanimous consent, Wade Smith of Dranesville District was elected Chair, and Douglas Pew of Hunter Mill was elected Vice Chair. The position of Secretary will continue to rotate among the members.

Review of Meeting Minutes: The October 2008 Minutes were approved. There was no meeting in November 2008. The December 2008 Minutes were approved with one change:

“... Jenny Pate noted the opening of the new trail in the Sully District and the CCT reroute in Accotink will be completed soon.”

is amended to read:

“... Jenny Pate noted the opening of the new **Cub Run Stream Valley Trail** in the Sully District and the CCT reroute in Accotink will be completed soon.”

Old Business

DPZ Response to Committee Request on Trail Waiver Policy.

On January 5, the DPZ responded to the five questions raised by the Committee. A full discussion will be an agenda item in March 2009. The Committee's intent in Item 4 of our letter ("Investigate how escrow accounts could be released to be used for other [projects]") may have been misunderstood by DPZ.

A motion was made to have DPZ Staff report to the Committee every quarter on how much money is in each District's Walkway fund. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

Ann Pimley pointed out that the Committee must make suggestions for the January 2010 legislative agenda. We could request support on changing the escrow guidelines from other trails and sidewalks committees in other counties. We will discuss this idea in March.

Trails List

Members discussed priorities for a number of projects. Wade Smith says that we should have a list of ten items for each District by the March meeting. Roger Diedrich says that members should inspect a DPZ list, and add an estimated length of the trail so it can be scoped. Mark Tipton says that we must ask Chris Wells (DOT) how such a list will be processed.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Sheng Leu reported that a lot of GIS data was collected and organized in 2007. One layer of the data is an "easement layer." It covers easements of all types, and it is based on County records. It does not show trail widths, but that can be worked out because the easements are linked to the deeds they reference.

New Business

Pedestrian Bill – Roger Diedrich reports that the Senate passed a Pedestrian Safety bill. The companion bill from the House has significant issues. The bill may not pass this year.

Tyson's Tunnel – Discussion is deferred to a future meeting.

Oracle Property – Our visitor was introduced by Doug Pew of Hunter Mill. Evan Prichard of Walsh, Colucci et al. Explained that Oracle is building a new parking garage at their campus. The current trail parallels the property line. Oracle does not want it there because the property line abuts the Dulles Toll Road. Its present location also complicates future building plans. Dranesville Staff made a request to connect the trail segment to a nearby shopping mall instead. Wade Smith replied that the Staff's request is not part of the Trails plan, but an "extra." Concerns were expressed that the trail route preferred by Oracle goes through a parking lot and turn lanes. The Oracle campus is about a mile from the future Wheelie Avenue Metro Station, and therefore we expect that the trail will be heavily used. The committee saw no reason to build the trail away from where it is supposed to be.

Tyson's Corner Plan Language – The first draft has been released.

Adjournment: The Committee adjourned at 9:22 PM.