

Minutes of the Fairfax County Trails & Sidewalks Committee

Meeting on January 10, 2007 – meeting minutes by Jenny Pate

Members Present- Bruce Wright (Hunter Mill, chairman), Robert Michie (Lee), Brent Reynolds (Braddock), Wade Smith (Dranesville), Roy Brooks (Mason), Paul Johnson (NVBIA), Ann Pimley (FADSB), Greg Galligan (at-large), Dan Iglhaut (NVRPA), Jenny Pate (FCPA)

Staff Present – Sheng Leu (DPZ); Charlie Strunk (DOT)

Guest – Kathryn Moore (DPWES, Maintenance and Stormwater Management)

AGENDA:

Call to order – Bruce Wright called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for November 8, 2006 – Minutes were approved unanimously as submitted by Deb Leser, with one capitalization correction (National Park Service)

Trail Maintenance – Bruce Wright introduced Kathryn Moore from the Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Service to discuss maintenance of county trails. Her presentation, based on two Power Point handouts, covered the completed inventory of trails in the county (FCPA is also working on an inventory and mapping of all park trails) and the total miles of trails in their data base (4305 total miles of trail, with VDOT managing 1586, other entities managing 1063, RA with 43, unknown managers for 763, county maintained 616, FCPA 166, FCPS 43, NVRPA 25).

The charts she shared included a chart showing the change in the total number of miles of trail maintained by the county from 1999 to 2007 and the budget and funding constraints associated with that maintenance.

She also discussed a list of current projects their division is working on (a total of 7 projects - 2 bridge replacements, 2 trail rehabilitations, 2 trail repairs, and an upgrade of the trail along Haycock Road to the Metro station).

In the question and answer period that followed the presentation, we discussed topics such as: What can the Committee do to help get increased funding and staffing for maintenance? Since the budget is approved by the BOS, a suggestion was made for the district reps to talk with their supervisors about the importance of adequate funding for trail maintenance using Kathryn's numbers. It is also important to emphasize how staff shortages affect maintenance. For maintenance concerns and complaints, Kathryn is the contact person or MSMD can be accessed on DPWES website. Safety concerns are taken care of immediately, other issues can take a while. Bruce requested an interactive map with the entity responsible for maintenance for each trail designated in some way.

Staff Reports – Sheng Leu reported that the DPWES December project status report will be e-mailed shortly. Bruce Wright is now authorized to modify the committee website. The existing trails map has been completed and needs to be reviewed by the

district reps, but it is a PDF 11.5 MB in size. He will bring discs with copies of the file to the next committee meeting.

Charlie Strunk reported for the Department of Transportation that Chris Wells is working on the project list for the November transportation bond. Unless he receives additional input from the districts with specific projects, he will compile the list of projects from the existing list (about 300 projects). Charlie is working on the Gallows Road on-road bike lanes, currently in VDOT for review. He is also working on an additional list of roads that could have bike lanes added without additional paving, including Backlick/Amherst, Westmoreland, areas around Metro stations, etc.

Chair Report - Bruce Wright noted that our by-laws state “the Committee shall submit a report of its activities annually to the Board of Supervisors at the end of the calendar year.” We have not done so in the past, but the committee expressed a desire to submit a report this year. We agreed that we will include a bulleted list of our major accomplishments along with a section of concerns. Bruce will put a draft together and send it to the Committee for review.

Representatives of the School Board will attend the February committee meeting, which has been changed to **February 21** to accommodate their schedules. A discussion of possible topics included:

- encouraging kids to walk to school and Safe Routes to School - support, opinions, policy issues
- waivers of trail requirements and policy to fill in the missing links
- bike parking at schools
- maintenance and construction funding

In March, there will be workshops on the Tyson’s development, seeking public input. Members, especially those representing effected districts, are encouraged to attend.

Election of Officers – Bruce would like to take a lesser role on the committee and asked for nominations to succeed him as chairman. Wade Smith, as vice-chairman, might be interested in 2008, but can’t do it this year. Brent Reynolds will think about it and discuss the role with Bruce. There were no formal nominations or volunteers. We agreed to postpone the voting until next month. The vice- chairman and recording secretary don’t actually have to be voted in since, according to the By-Laws, those positions shall “be appointed by the chairperson.”

New Business - Bob Michie reported that Supervisor Kauffman is holding the annual Lee District Town Meeting in March and asked for committee input on publicity ideas to promote or explain the workings of the committee. Several suggestions were made. Bob will develop some ideas. That led into a discussion of the need to publicize the committee countywide – who we are and what we do. Many residents have no idea. Discussed the possibility of presence at the Fairfax Fair.

Old Business – Bruce noted that there is a new bicycle map of Virginia published by VDOT.

Adjournment – 9:10 p.m.