

NOTE: Summary minutes of the last four (4) meetings of the Greenways Committee are shown below, in consecutive order from oldest to most recent. The minutes have been approved by the Committee, unless identified as “draft.” Signed originals are on file with the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department.

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
HILLSBOROUGH GREENWAYS COMMITTEE
QUARTERLY MEETING**

September 11, 2007

County Center, 26th Floor, Rm. B, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, Downtown Tampa

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stanley Kroh called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Twenty (20) people signed the sign-in sheet. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 12, 2007 were approved as written.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public wished to speak.

IV. COMMITTEE HOUSEKEEPING

A. Recognition of Outstanding Efforts by City of Tampa Greenways & Trails Coordinator – The Committee and the County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department recognized Mary Helen Duke, the Greenways and Trails Coordinator for the City of Tampa and the City’s member on the Greenways Committee, for her outstanding efforts. Mary Helen’s position at the City Parks and Recreation Department was eliminated due to budget cuts and her last day is September 30th. **The Committee voted unanimously to send a letter to the City’s Parks and Recreation Director, Karen Palus, thanking her for Mary Helen’s participation on the County’s Greenways Committee since 2004 and requesting a continuing focus on implementation of the City’s greenways program as well as participation on the Hillsborough Greenways Committee.**

B. Vacant Alternate Positions: Stan reminded Citizen Members that those who wish to fill their alternate positions may propose someone for the Committee’s approval. The following members’ alternate positions are vacant at this time:

Ed Crawford - At-Large
Rob Heath- Natural Resources
Richard Johnson - Hiking

Alex Roberts - Canoe/Kayaking
Julianne North – Mountain Biking

Alex Roberts proposed Michael Raff as his alternate, and Julianne North proposed John Harrison as her alternate. **The Committee voted unanimously to approve both of them.**

Larry Weatherby noted that his alternate, Erle Boynton, will be retiring from that position. It was agreed that at the December meeting the Committee would recognize Erle's many years of volunteer service on the Committee as a member and as an alternate.

- C. December Elections: Stan reminded the Committee that Citizen Members listed below are serving 4-year terms which expire the end of December 2007. Elections for these positions will be held at the December 11th Greenways Committee meeting. (There are no term limits.). Also at the December meeting, the Committee will elect its officers for 2008.

Members with Expiring Terms – Interest Represented

Alex Roberts – Canoe/Kayaking	Sally Thompson – At Large
Richard Johnson – Hiking	Rich Rome – At Large
Larry Weatherby – Multi-use Paved Trails	
Ryan Bose – Natural Resources	

Hillsborough Greenways Program staff, Charner Reese, with the County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, requested that the above listed members notify her as soon as possible of their interest in continuing to serve, so that she will know the extent to which recruitment efforts will be needed during the Fall.

V. BUDGET OUTCOMES & STATUS OF UTBT STORAGE BUILDING

Greenways Committee Vice Chair, Sally Thompson, reported on the BOCC Budget Hearing September 5th. She attended the hearing and spoke on behalf of the Committee. She said she thanked the Board of County Commissioners and the County Administrator for their continuing support for greenways and specifically for supporting funding in the FY 08/09 budget for the Committee's top two priorities (i.e., additional land acquisition funding for Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV, and construction funding for South Coast Greenway Phase III - based on Committee's most recent yearly project ranking, which was conducted December 2006).

Sally also requested that the BOCC release the hold on the already funded UTBT storage building project, so that the project can move forward. The hold was placed on the project pending the outcome of the super homestead exemption. Sally said she pointed out that the project would not require any additional staff, would have minimal operating costs, and would provide much needed storage space.

Tina Russo, County Trails Manager and the County's voting member on the Greenways Committee, reported that during the previous weekend the temporary metal shed, which the storage building project will replace, was broken into and thousands of dollars of trail

maintenance equipment was stolen. She said the concrete block storage building project would provide a safer place to store equipment.

Charner reported that since the public hearing there has been no word on whether the storage building would be released from hold, but that staff is in the process of evaluating ways to reduce the cost of construction and might recommend moving forward with the project in the near future.

VI. NEXT STEPS IN WILDLIFE HABITAT GAPS & BARRIERS EVALUATION

Natural Resources Citizen Member, Rob Heath, reported that the Gaps and Barriers Ad Hoc Committee was in the process of completing all initial site visits, with some in the Alafia River basin remaining to be done. He said he is working with Alternate James Wheeler to complete the field work within two weeks. Once completed, the ad hoc committee will reconvene to decide which sites to recommend for inclusion in a Non-Game Wildlife grant application, to be submitted by the County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department later this Fall. The purpose of the grant is to support research that will result in recommendations for removing or minimizing barriers to wildlife movement within the Natural Corridors of the Greenway System.

Rob also reported that Greenways Committee Chairman Stan Kroh received a letter stating that ELAP Program staff will be recommending to the ELAPP Site Selection Committee the two Greenways Committee nominations from December 2006. The ad hoc committee researched and recommended that the Greenways Committee nominate the two sites in order to eliminate two gaps in the Natural Corridors of the Greenway System. The ELAPP Site Selection Committee's public meeting to solicit comment will be September 25, 2007 at 6:00 pm at the County Center, 26th floor, Conference Room B.

Stan appointed Natural Resources Citizen Member Ryan Bose to attend the ELAPP public meeting on behalf of the Greenways Committee.

VII. RESPONSE FROM MPO REGARDING TE FUNDING FOR UTBT PHASE IV & COUNTY STAFF'S RECOMMENDED REVISED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Stan reported that he received a letter from the Lucie Ayer, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization, responding to the Committee's written request to make Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV (the link to the Suncoast Trail) the top Transportation Enhancement funding priority for the various reasons discussed at the Committee's June meeting. Ms. Ayer's response stated that MPO staff did not support changing the funding priorities due to the organization's procedural requirements and would not recommend doing so to the MPO Board.

Given that outcome, County staff reviewed and revised the project's funding schedule to show a new "best case" scenario for future design and construction funding from the TE grant program. Charner shared a table showing the revisions and stated that under the revised scenario additional funding would be required from the County to match future TE funds. Also, under the new scenario's schedule, Segment C-1, the segment of the project that will provide a replacement trailhead for the Suncoast Trail on Luz-Lake Fern Road, will not be constructed until FY 2011.

Tina Russo stated that the existing temporary trailhead will be reduced to about 30 parking spaces in about 18 months when the Turnpike District constructs the new Suncoast Parkway interchange on Lutz-Lake Fern Road. She said that on weekends up to 70 cars are parked in the existing temporary trailhead parking lot.

Citizen Alternate John Harrison suggested that the County discuss with the School Board utilizing the new nearby elementary school for overflow parking. Charner stated that she will ask appropriate PRC Department staff to bring that idea up with School Board staff at their next coordination meeting and will report back to the Committee with any news.

VIII. BLUEWAYS UPDATE

Charner updated the Committee on the final revisions to the County's Blueways webpage and demonstrated the site's features using the meeting room's internet connection and big screens. She provided the Committee with the URL:

<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks/parkservices/blueways> and stated that all the input received during the test phase had been incorporated and that the site is now live.

Charner informed the Committee that, as expected, the PRC Department's blueways funding request for trailhead signage and trail guidebooks did not get recommended by the County Administrator. Charner said it will be necessary to go back to the drawing board to see if funding can be secured 100% through grants.

Charner announced that the Florida Circumnavigation Trail Association will hold an inaugural meeting October 15 from 1-5 pm at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park. Canoe/Kayak Citizen Member, Alex Roberts, expressed interest in attending the meeting and following this issue for the Committee.

IX. REPORTS (IF ANY) FROM GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Dana Carver, Temple Terrace Park Planner and that City's member on the Greenways Committee, stated he is continuing to work on the 1.2-mile multi-use paved trail project along and over the Hillsborough River to be funded through a Transportation Enhancement grant. The most recent issue is the bike/pedestrian bridge over the river, which is planned to be a rustic suspension bridge to fit in with the natural environment. Some residents along the river do not support the bridge, and City Council has not yet approved its location. Dana stated that the structure is essential to the project. Dana also reported that a dog park is being planned on the Tampa Bypass Canal and the layout will not interfere with the planned Tampa Bypass Canal Trail identified on the Hillsborough Greenway System Map.

Tina Russo reported that the 911 system for the Upper Tampa Bay Trail is scheduled to be operational in October. She also said that seal coating of the UTBT surface between Linebaugh Avenue and Peterson Road has been completed.

At-Large Citizen Member of the Greenways Committee (and Hartline staff member) Ed Crawford reported that the bus transfer station project across Channel A from UTBT Channel Park Trailhead will be under construction soon. This facility will be a very compatible use adjacent to the trailhead and the YMCA, since more and more people are

commuting using a combination of bike and bus. In fact, bus bike racks are being enlarged to handle more bikes because of the demand.

Charner provided Committee members with a table of the updated Greenway System Map statistics, based on the Committee's June 2007 approval of map revisions. The table showed the total number of acres of Natural Corridors protected (109,446.6 acres) as well as the total number of acres of Natural Corridors proposed for protection (57,034.1 acres). The table also identified the total number of miles of the various types of existing trails (307.9 miles of which 31.5 miles are paved trails) and the total number of proposed trail miles (109.5 miles) in the unincorporated county.

Charner provided the Committee with a brief status report on funded Greenways Program projects, including Northdale-Lake Park Trail (project cost being re-estimated), UTBT Phases I and III Retrofit (construction to be completed by the end of the year), South Coast Greenway Phase I (design to begin in 2008), and South Coast Greenway Phase III (project development to begin in early 2008).

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Sally Thompson referred to an email Committee members received the previous month regarding recent comments of the US Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters, who stated on the News Hour with Jim Lehrer that multi-use paved trails are not transportation facilities and, therefore, should not be funded with gas tax revenues (i.e. Transportation Enhancement grant funding). A lively discussion followed, with the Committee coming to the conclusion that nothing will result from Ms. Peters comments because Congress is no longer in lock-step with the Executive Branch.

XI. COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

The next scheduled quarterly Committee meeting is Tuesday, December 11, 2007. The meeting will be held at the County Center, from 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm on Floor 26, Room B. The Committee will set its 2008 meeting schedule at the December meeting.

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
HILLSBOROUGH GREENWAYS COMMITTEE
QUARTERLY MEETING**

December 11, 2007

County Center, 26th Floor, Rm. B, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, Downtown Tampa

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stanley Kroh called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Thirteen (13) people signed the sign-in sheet. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 11, 2007 were approved as written.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public wished to speak.

IV. COMMITTEE HOUSEKEEPING

A. The Greenways Committee voted unanimously to re-elect the following Citizen Members to a 3 year term from 2008-2011:

- 1. Alex Roberts – Canoe/Kayaking**
- 2. Richard Johnson – Hiking**
- 3. Larry Weatherby – Multi-use Paved Trails**
- 4. Ryan Bose – Natural Resources**
- 5. Sally Thompson – At Large**
- 6. Rich Rome – At Large**

Charner Reese, Greenways Program staff, relayed to the Committee that Citizen Alternate, Don Bly, expressed interest in serving as a Citizen Member in the Multi-Use Trails or At-Large position, if a presently serving member wishes to become an alternate for either of those positions.

B. The Greenways Committee voted unanimously to elect the following officers for 2008:

- 1. Stanley Kroh – Chair**
- 2. Rich Rome – Vice Chair**
- 3. Jim Hartnett – Recording Secretary**

V. CITY OF TAMPA GREENWAYS PROGRAM

Sally Thompson, who, in addition to being an At-Large Member of the Hillsborough Greenways Committee, is also Chair of the Tampa Greenways and Trails Citizen

Advisory Committee, provided an update on the City program since the departure of Tampa Greenways and Trails Coordinator Mary Helen Duke due to budget cuts. Sally stated that Karla Price, Landscape Architect III with the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department, Planning and Design Division, will be taking over the program staffing responsibilities. Also, Karla has been designated by the department director, Karen Palus, as the City of Tampa's designated voting member on the Hillsborough Greenways Committee.

VI. PRIORITIZATION OF HILLSBOROUGH GREENWAY TRAIL CONCEPTS

Charner reviewed with the Committee its previous ranking in December 2006 of trail concepts identified on the Hillsborough Greenway System Map. She also described the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department's unfunded projects "2007 Request List" developed and ranked based on input from the various department programs, including the Greenways Program (i.e., from the Greenways Committee's ranking of concepts). The Department Director used this information to recommend projects for funding in the annual Capital Improvement Program budget process. He also sought input from Park Board members and individual Commissioners to develop the final list. Based on all that input, the Director finalized the 2007 Request List with one revision to the trails program component. That revision was to move all trail projects related to the Northwest Regional Connector Trail concept higher on the list, just after South Coast Greenway.

After reviewing the prior year's ranking of trail concepts as well as the Parks Director's 2007 list of prioritized projects, **the Committee voted unanimously to rank the Greenways Program trail concepts as follows:**

- 1. Upper Tampa Bay Trail**
- 2. South Coast Greenway**
- 3. Northwest Regional Connector Trail**
- 4. Tampa Bypass Canal Trail**
- 5. Cross County Greenway**

VII. COMMITTEE BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON TRAILS FUNDING ADVOCACY

In preparation for a BOCC public hearing to be scheduled some time in February or March 2008 regarding what projects to fund with \$40 million in available CIT funds, the Committee discussed actions they could take to advocate funding Greenways Program trail projects.

The Committee reviewed the original CIT Referendum text, which calls out "trails" as a specific type of project to fund with CIT revenues. The Committee also discussed the 2006 Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation Survey which shows that walking and bicycling trails are strongly desired by Hillsborough residents. The Committee also received copies of the recently published West Central Florida MPOs Coordinating Committee's regional paved trails element, with a concept map showing the 7-mile Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV as a regional priority to complete because it would create a 57-mile continuous trail in three counties.

The Committee discussed the need for trail funding advocacy for both the Upper Tampa Bay Trail and the South Coast Greenway. The Committee concluded that if any of the planned multi-

use paved trail projects identified in the Hillsborough Greenways Master Plan, such as the Upper Tampa Bay Trail 7-mile link to the Suncoast Trail and the 3-mile South Coast Greenway link to Symmes Road, are to be constructed, then allocation of a portion of the \$40 million in CIT funds will be necessary. The total funding needed for these 2 trail projects is about \$12 million and is broken down as follows:

- \$2,031,000 to design Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV (with \$767,000 to be reimbursed to the County from Transportation Enhancement grant funding)
- \$9,325,000 to construct UTBT Phase IV, which includes 7 miles of paved trail and 2 trailheads (with up to \$6,256,000 to be requested as reimbursement from TE grant funding)
- \$1,427,000 to fully fund construction of South Coast Greenway Phase III

After reviewing and discussing trail funding needs, the Committee identified several actions to take by Citizen Members and Alternates between now and February/March 2008.

1. December – each individual develops a group email list of people and organizations they know who might be interested in advocating for funding.
2. First week in January – each individual sends a message to the group email list explaining the need for trail funding and asking that the recipients call, email and/or visit their County Commissioners during the month of January and early February to request Community Investment Tax (CIT) funding for trails. The emailed message should also include a request to forward the message to others who might be interested in advocating for trails funding.
3. January through early February - each individual takes the same action requested of those on the group email, with an emphasis on, not only emailing and calling, but also making appointments and meeting with commissioners or commissioner aides (if a commissioner is not available). Committee members and alternates can not visit commissioners together because of Sunshine requirements, but they may go with other citizens to meet with Commissioners.
4. Feb-March – each individual attends and participates in the yet-to-be scheduled public hearing on what to spend the \$40 million on. The public hearing will be held at the County Center in the 2nd floor boardroom. Once the hearing is scheduled, staff will email the date and time to all Committee members. In turn, this information should be sent to the group email lists with a request to attend and participate.

At the Committee meeting, those Committee Members and Alternates present identified information and tools to support these actions, including:

1. Recently published Regional Multi-Use Trail Element color brochure, with a map of existing, funded, and planned but unfunded paved trails in the region. The Hillsborough Greenways Program priority trail projects are shown on the map. Additional copies of the brochure can be obtained from Park Planning and Design, County Center, 24th floor, 276-8388.
2. Community Attitude and Interest Survey conducted in Hillsborough County in 2006, regarding parks and recreation preferences and showing that most people want more bicycling and walking trails and nature parks than any other types of parks and recreation.

3. The 1996 Community Investment Tax Referendum language, which specifically called out trails as one of the types of facilities to be funded with the tax money.
4. Contact information on the Hillsborough County website, hillsboroughcounty.org, for Hillsborough County Commissioners. Individual commissioners can be emailed directly from the website.

VIII. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

A. Outcome of ELAPP Site Selection Committee Sept 25th Public Meeting – Ryan Bose, Natural Resources Citizen Member, reported that both of the Greenways Committee’s nominations – Cone Ranch Addition and Fishhawk Creek Addition - were accepted and are now recommended for acquisition.

B. Status of Wildlife Corridor Barrier Sites Project – Charner Reese reported that the City-County ad hoc committee completed all site visits and ranked projects in terms of importance to monitor for wildlife usage. The ranked sites were presented as a written report to the Committee. The top 10 sites are:

1. US 301 at Hillsborough River
2. Future East-West Road at Cypress Creek
3. TECO corridor at Fishhawk Creek and associated conservation lands
4. Future extension of Big Bend Rd at Bell Creek and associated ELAP acquired lands
5. Morris Bridge Rd future widening from Tampa Bypass Canal to Cory Lakes Blvd
6. SR 39 at Blackwater Creek
7. Fishhawk Blvd (& future widening) at Fishhawk Cr and associated ELAP lands
8. Balm Boyette Road at TECO corridor and Boyette Scrub Preserve
9. Lithia Pinecrest Road at Alafia River
10. SR 39 at Alderman Ford Park

The next steps will be to meet with the UF Urban Wildlife Ecology Professor Steve Johnson, who is stationed at the Hillsborough Extension Service Office to request assistance with obtaining a Non-Game Wildlife Grant and involving graduate students in site monitoring for one year.

- C. UTBT Phase IV TE Grant Funding Status – Charner reported that FDOT determined the project feasible for a \$700,000 design grant applied for in 2003. This project will be a reimbursement grant, provided the County funds the project upfront, thereby allowing the project to move forward as soon as funded instead of waiting five years when FDOT funds will be available.
- D. UTBT Channel Park Storage Building Project Status – Charner reported that the department has taken the project off its hold list and will be moving forward with the project in early 2008. A site plan was shown at the meeting indicating the future location of the building.
- E. FDOT Response to Request RE: OFKT Crossings of US 301 – No response yet.
- F. School District Response RE: Use of McKitrick Elementary School for Suncoast Trail Overflow Parking – No response yet.

IX. REPORTS (IF ANY) FROM GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Tina Russo distributed the MPOs West Central Florida Coordinating Committee's new regional trails map; and the Committee discussed its use in trails funding advocacy.

Tina apprised the Committee of a proposed rezoning for a hotel adjacent to the existing Upper Tampa Bay Trail in Citrus Park and a proposed borrow pit north of the future UTBT Phase IV on Lutz-Lake Fern Road. She also mentioned a development proposal for a office-industrial park at the corner of Wilsky and Lindbaugh near the UTBT Wilsky Trailhead.

Tina announced the upcoming Bike Florida weeklong ride in March. The ride is open to about 800 riders and will utilize rural routes and a number of paved trails between Clearwater and Fanning Springs.

Recounting 2007 Committee successes, Charner listed the following Committee achievements:

- Blueways information posted on County website at hillsboroughcounty.org/parks/parkservices/blueways.
- \$501,000 approved by County Commission for Upper Bay Trail Phase IV land acquisition.
- Funding approved by County Commission for bike lanes and sidewalks on Old Memorial between Montague and Hillsborough to better connect UTBT to Upper Tampa Bay Park.
- Proposed Brandon Bypass removed from Long Range Transportation Map.
- ELAPP acquisition of Eldridge-Wilde site, a site nominated by Greenways Committee to improve the connection to Brooker Creek Preserve.

X. COMMITTEE MEETING DATES IN 2008

The Committee approved the following 2008 quarterly meeting dates: March 11, June 10, September 9, and December 9. The meetings will be held at the County Center, from 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm on Floor 26, Room B. The June meeting might be held at a different location (TBD).

XI. ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

g/draft minutes/ Dec 11, 07.doc

draft

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
HILLSBOROUGH GREENWAYS COMMITTEE
QUARTERLY MEETING**

March 11, 2008

County Center, 26th Floor, Rm. B, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd, Downtown Tampa

III. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stanley Kroh called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Seventeen (17) people signed the sign-in sheet. A quorum was present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 11, 2007 were approved as written.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public wished to speak.

IV. COMMITTEE HOUSEKEEPING

A. **The Greenways Committee voted unanimously to elect Donald Bly to the Citizen Member position representing paved trail interests, with former Paved Trails Citizen Member Larry Weatherby as Don's Alternate. The term expires December 2011.**

B. Recognition of long time Citizen Member, Erle Boynton, who retired recently, was postponed to the June Committee meeting.

V. COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES, BUDGET ISSUES AND BOCC HEARING
SCHEDULE

Charner Reese, Greenways Program staff, presented a table of the Parks, Recreation and Conservation capital improvement priorities (Capital Projects Request List) and explained that the projects listed under the subprogram in the table called "Trails" reflect the Greenways Committee's prioritization of Greenways Master Plan trail concepts, which the Committee conducted at the December 2007 meeting. She also stated that there will be two opportunities for the Committee to express its recommendation for funding these trail projects: 1) public hearing on what to spend \$40 million in CIT originally set aside for Championship Park, and 2) the regular summer budget public hearings which will be held in June and July. She said the BOCC is scheduled to discuss when to hold the CIT public hearing at its regular Board meeting on April 16th. Committee Chair Stan Kroh requested staff to keep the Committee apprised if the date this item is to be discussed is changed. Charner pointed out a Board motion from last November to establish a committee comprised of athletic league presidents and others to advise the Board on what types of recreation facilities to fund with the \$40 million in

CIT revenue. She also stated that PRC Department Director, Mark Thornton, told her the League presidents had already identified \$60 million in needed sports fields and related improvements. Finally, Charner explained that presently available federal Enhancement grant money for Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV would not be utilized because it was only \$150,000 and nothing could be done with that amount without the County providing a reimbursable match of at least \$550,000 to fully fund design of the first trail section along Lutz-Lake Fern Road (Section C-1, including a permanent replacement trailhead for the Suncoast Trail). Charner stated that Mr. Thornton informed her on March 10th that there was no County support for funding the design upfront, with reimbursement in five years from FDOT, and, therefore, the County would have to wait five years for FDOT to fully fund and project manage the design of Section C-1.

VI. CONTINUATION OF COMMITTEE DISCUSSION REGARDING TRAILS FUNDING ADVOCACY

In preparation for a BOCC public hearing to be scheduled some time after April 16th regarding what projects to fund with \$40 million in available CIT funds, the Committee discussed actions they could take to advocate funding Greenways Program trail projects.

The Committee reviewed the information discussed at the December Committee meeting, including: the original CIT Referendum text, which calls out “trails” as a specific type of project to fund with CIT revenues; the 2006 Attitude and Interests Survey which shows that walking and bicycling trails are strongly desired by Hillsborough residents; and the West Central Florida MPOs Coordinating Committee’s regional paved trails element with a concept map showing the 7-mile Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV as a regional priority to complete because it would create a 57-mile continuous trail in three counties.

The Committee discussed why it was important to fund trails general, the need to fund the Committee’s top two priority projects (Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV for \$11,356,000 and South Coast Greenway Phase III for \$1,427,000), and why it was important to fund these two projects specifically. **The Committee identified the points below and unanimously passed a motion requesting staff compile them into a fact sheet for use by Committee members:**

- Implements BOCC-approved 1995 *Hillsborough Greenways Master Plan*.
- County’s Capital Projects Request List includes \$65 million of unfunded Greenways Program trail projects (all of which are identified in the Greenways Master Plan).
- County’s 2006 Community Attitude and Interest Survey conducted by Leisure Vision to establish future parks and recreation priorities found the highest support for developing new walking and biking trails (81% -- 62% very supportive; 19% somewhat supportive).
- Quality of Life Benefits - multi-use paved trails are available for all types of users and all skill levels – families and individuals of all ages. Thousands of people who bicycle, skate, run or walk can use a trail each month of the year for recreation, fitness, health, as well as non-motorized transportation.
- Number of users of Upper Tampa Bay Trail

- 1996 CIT Referendum specifically calls out “trails” as a type of infrastructure to fund with the Community Investment Tax.

- Compare operational impact with other types of recreation facilities

- Upper Tampa Bay Trail

7-mile link will create a 57-mile regional paved trail through 3 counties, with links to other trails such as the future Northwest Recreational Corridor Trail and the existing Starkey Wilderness Trail.

Will provide a permanent replacement trailhead for the popular, but temporary, Suncoast Trailhead on Lutz-Lake Fern Rd, which is located in the right-of-way of the future parkway interchange.

Qualifies for federal Enhancement grant funding and has the potential to receive up to \$7 million in reimbursement over a number of years to offset the \$11,356,000 cost to design and construct the project.

Acquisition of the trail corridor will be completed in 2008.

Completion of link to Suncoast Trail is the #1 regional priority of the West Central Florida MPO Chair’s Coordinating Committee and the #1 funding priority of the Hillsborough Greenways Committee.

- South Coast Greenway Phase III

Existing, partially funded Capital Improvement Project approved by the BOCC for future funding in the amount of \$1,427,000, but no funding source has been identified.

#2 funding priority of the Hillsborough Greenways Committee.

Phase I is fully funded by the County and will be under design in 2008, with construction scheduled in 2010. Phase II is developer-funded and anticipated to be completed in 2011.

If funded, Phase III will extend the trail 3 miles and create a 10-mile, north-south, multi-use paved trail facility for the rapidly growing population in South County.

The Committee also requested a breakdown on Upper Tampa Bay Trail funding, including a possible schedule, the potential grant funding, what it would cost to fully fund all sections of the project as well as what it would cost to only fund Section C-1.

The Committee unanimously passed a motion to send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners recommending that the Board approve funding from the \$40 in CIT originally set aside for Championship Park to fully fund Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV and South Coast Greenway Phase III and to include the fact sheet with the letter as an enclosure, and directed the Chair to represent the Committee regarding same at all appropriate public meetings and hearings.

VII. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- G. UTBT Phase IV TE Grant Funding Status – Charner reminded the Committee that at the last Greenways Committee meeting, she reported that FDOT District 7 staff determined the project feasible for a \$700,000 design grant for Section C-1. This project will be a reimbursement grant, provided the County funds the project upfront, thereby allowing the project to move forward as soon as funded instead of waiting five years when FDOT funds are available. The letter from FDOT confirming the feasibility determination was included in the Correspondence and Articles packet that was part of the meeting materials. (See Agenda Item V- discussion of budget issues for report from staff regarding the fact that the PRC Department Director did not think there was County support for funding the project upfront with reimbursement in 5 years from FDOT.
- H. UTBT Channel Park Storage Building Project Status – Charner reported that the project is in design.
- C. FDOT Response to Request RE: Improve OFKT Crossings of US 301 – Charner stated that Gary Thompson, P.E. with FDOT District 7, informed her that he has a "buy-in" from his counterparts from the other FDOT Districts concerning his recommended treatment, which is a change in signage. He will need to submit the specifics for the "recreational trails" signing. Part of the issue involves the specific wording on the signs that refers to whether or not a motorist has to "yield" or "stop" for pedestrians. Mr. Thompson said there is a bill that has been pre-filed which would change the law and require many signs to be replaced. He said that they are on target to have something later this Spring.
- D. School District Response RE: Use of McKitrick Elementary School for Suncoast Trail Overflow Parking on Weekends – Charner reported on the the School District staff's response that the use of McKitrick would not be allowed because the parking lot must be locked on weekends. The Committee discussed this and asked Charner to contact the child care facility located in the same vicinity, Barrington Academy, to find out if that school's parking lot could be used.

VIII. REPORTS (IF ANY) FROM GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Tina Russo, County representative on the Committee and Manager of the Upper Tampa Bay Trail, Suncoast Trail and Town 'N Country Greenway, informed the Committee of a new clinic she has developed called WOMEN ON WHEELS - A monthly get-together of women to have fun, learn about bicycling, and ride bikes. The clinic will be held the second Thursday of every month, starting Thursday March 13th, 2008, 6 p.m., Upper Tampa Bay Trail, Channel Park Trailhead 9201 W. Waters Ave.

Sally Thompson, who is Chair of the Tampa Greenways and Trails Citizen Advisory Committee and an At-Large Citizen Member of the Hillsborough Greenways Committee, stated that the update to the City's Greenways Master Plan is being reviewed by citizen groups and will be taken to City Council for approval in April.

Tina concluded the meeting by playing a CD of "Greenways and Blueways" a song dedicated to greenway and blueway advocates and written and sung by Dr. Linda Crider,

a bicycling advocate and leader of a statewide bicycling organization. Tina provided a copy of the words to the song, which are:

Greenways and blueways - creating more new ways
to enjoy rights of passage, the pedestrian arts,
to re-create, recreate, meditate, contemplate,
to strengthen our spirits, our bodies, our hearts.

These linear trails provide many pleasures -
corridors clothed like goddesses in green
weaving a pattern of wilderness treasures
connecting the pathways for panther and deer.

A plea for protection rings strong in our ears
as man's sprawling footprint gobbles the land.
Emerald necklaces, shining blue ribbons,
this patchwork of nature made by God's hand.

So hail to the stewards, the keepers of promise.
Their vision in tune with a wilderness band.
Providing the paths for the next generation,
as these greenways and blueways traverse the land.
These greenways and blueways made by God's hand.

IX. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

g/draft minutes/ Mar 11, 08.doc

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE
HILLSBOROUGH GREENWAYS COMMITTEE
QUARTERLY MEETING**

June 3, 2008

Channel Park Visitors Center Meeting Room
9201 W. Waters Avenue, Tampa

V. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stanley Kroh called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Fourteen (14) people signed the sign-in sheet. A quorum was present.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 11, 2008 were approved as written.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public wished to speak.

IV. COMMITTEE HOUSEKEEPING

The Committee recognized retiring member Erle Boynton for his 12 years of service on the Hillsborough Greenways Committee. On behalf of the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, Greenways Program Planner Charner Reese presented Erle with a Certificate of Appreciation. The Committee gave Erle a memento (an inline skater ornament inscribed with "Hillsborough Greenways") to remember his outstanding efforts on behalf of the Hillsborough Greenways.

W. PAVED TRAIL FUNDING ADVOCACY UPDATE

Chairman Stanley Kroh reminded the Committee of the letter and fact sheet the Committee sent to County Commissioners after the Committee's March meeting. The letter expressed the Committee's desire that the County Commission support allocating a portion of the \$40 million in Community Investment Tax to fund design and construction of Upper Tampa Bay Trail Phase IV and to fund construction of South Coast Greenway Phase III.

Member Alternate John Harrison, Chairman Stanley Kroh and Member Rich Rome each reported on their efforts to advocate for trail funding before the Parks Advisory Board, individual County Commissioners and Commissioner aides, and before the County Commission. To date, only Commissioner Sharpe expressed specific support for trails funding. Others either did not respond to requests (Blair, Norman) or responded with vague or tepid support (Ferlita, Higginbotham, Hagan, White).

VI. PARKS DEPT JUNE 18TH PRESENTATION OF MASTER PLAN AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Charner Reese described the anticipated process the Parks Dept. Director will follow to present the recommendations for future park improvements, which are to be based on the recently completed parks master plan and the recommendations of the Parks Advisory Board, which will meet June 5th at 6 pm to take up the issue.

After discussing this item, **the Committee unanimously passed a motion to send a letter to the Parks Advisory Board stating the Committee's position and to send a representative to the meeting.** John Harrison agreed to represent the Committee at the Parks Advisory Board meeting.

VII. COUNTY BUDGET HEARING DATES

Stanley Kroh provided the Committee with a list of the dates for the County's Budget Hearings as well as "The Budget Process", a one-page illustrated description of the County budget process, for the Committee's information.

VIII. OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS IN NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

John Harrison led a discussion of the need to develop and where to develop mountain biking trails in northwest Hillsborough County, using information and maps from the BOCC-approved Northwest Recreational Corridor Plan and research that he had conducted. The Committee concluded that it would be beneficial if County Trails Manager Tina Russo, John Harrison, and a representative of SWAMP followed-up with Parks Dept Manager Forest Turbiville to discuss the possibilities of the specific sites as well as to discuss how the trails could be developed through volunteer efforts. Tina and John agreed to set a meeting with Forest and report back to the Committee.

IX. POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO GREENWAY SYSTEM MAP

Charner led a discussion regarding needed revisions to the Greenway System map and invited suggestions for revisions for the Committee's consideration. The following revisions were supported by the consensus:

- Distinguish between existing and proposed bikeways (Bikeways are bike lanes, routes, and sidepaths.)
- Update the map to show recent ELAPP acquisitions ("protected conservations lands")
- Show new existing trails within ELAPP sites, e.g., hiking trails
- Create a symbol for trailheads and identify existing trailheads on the map
- Obtain and incorporate updated City greenways information
- Once updated, link the Greenway System Map to other maps on the Parks Department webpages.

X. REPORTS FROM GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Tina Russo, County representative on the Committee and Manager of the Upper Tampa Bay Trail, Suncoast Trail and Town 'N Country Greenway, informed the Committee that Public Works Department is in the process of fixing a water leak on the trail at the Waters Avenue underpass. She also stated that by the end of the summer, 250 "911" trail station numbers will be tested and in operation on the Upper Tampa Bay Trail. Tina

mentioned the upcoming Suncoast Trail fundraiser being held by a private non-profit group in cooperation with the Turnpike District. The funds raised will pay for trail amenities.

Karla Price, Tampa Greenways and Trails Coordinator, stated that the following trail projects are under design: the Davis Islands Trail and the Manhattan Trail which is part of the South Tampa Greenway. She also mentioned that the Friendship Trail has been extended east as part of the work on Gandy Boulevard and a workshop is planned to consider how trail users will safely cross Gandy Boulevard. Karla stated that several other trail sections have been completed recently: between Himes and McDill AFB, in Lowry Park, and in Sulfur Springs.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Charner informed the Committee that as part of the recommended budget cuts necessary to address revenue shortfalls, the County Administrator is recommending that the Greenways Program Principal Planner position be eliminated.

XII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE