

Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway (IRLNSB) Coalition Meeting
Fellsmere Trailhead Welcome Center, 11200 State Road 512, Fellsmere, FL 32948
May 5, 2016

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order – 10:05 a.m. /Roll Call/Introductions

Board of Directors:

Tim Ford, City of Titusville, President

Robert Day, Cocoa Beach resident, Vice President

Nicole Holbrook, Greater Sebastian River Chamber of Commerce, Treasurer

Board Members:

Beth Blackford, Palm Bay Resident

Marsha Cantrell, Rockledge Resident

Members/Guests:

Claudia Calzaretta, FDOT District 5 Byway Coordinator

Karen Wilharm-Ford, Atkins

Mark Mathes, City of Fellsmere Community Development Director

Michael Palozzi, CBI Tampa

2. Presentation – Mark Mathes, Community Development Director for the City of Fellsmere provided a presentation on the new Trailhead Welcome Center. Mr. Mathes informed the Coalition that there were some punch list items to be performed, road signage needed to be installed, and 2 – 3 more exhibits needed to be installed. Mr. Mathes talked about the outdoor playground for small children and future plans to construct another playground for older children. The City was working on an agreement with the School District to use the Center as a field trip classroom. Subjects would include the history of the area, wildlife, botany, etc. The site had a walkway to an overlook and was part of a 15,000-acre park that included a ropes course. Future plans called for tent camping and an equestrian trail. The facility will be manned if volunteers can be found. Mr. Mathes discussed the history of the development process with the Coalition. The total cost of the project was \$680,000. One of the last National Scenic Byway grants paid for 50% of the project.
3. Minutes – The Coalition forgot to approve the March 3, 2016 meeting minutes/notes.
4. Sustainability of the Coalition – Mike Palozzi mentioned that he heard that Leigh Holt of the Brevard County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) had left the County and questioned whether her replacement could be part of the Coalition. Tim Ford mentioned that Richard Stillwagon was retiring and his replacement, Lisa Kubeika, has become a Coalition member. She was unable to attend today's meeting due to a training session. Tim also mentioned that Susan Adams had sent an email stating that she could not attend the Coalition meeting but that she was recruiting some members that might come to the next meeting.

5. Mini-Signing Plan Update – Claudia Calzaretta reported that the District 4 signs were being ordered and their installation would be coordinated with the installation of the District 5 signs. Ms. Calzaretta also said that an inventory of the Byway signs was planned for other areas of the Byway corridor.

Nicole Capp-Holbrook informed the Coalition that a sign on Roseland Road had been knocked down by a vehicle. Claudia would report the sign to FDOT Operations.

A discussion ensued about having Byway Designation signs at the Welcome Centers along the Byway. The Coalition discussed whether FDOT could provide signs, if the Coalition could purchase signs from the FDOT sign shop, or if the Coalition can have signs made on another type of material. Mike Palozzi and Claudia Calzaretta would look into the issue.

6. Committee Reports -

- a. Website Committee – Nicole Capp-Holbrook announced that the web page had received an email from a teacher in St. Lucie County looking for hard copies of the Lagoon coloring book found on the web page link. The Coalition suggested that Nicole refer the teacher to the St. Johns River Water Management District who created the coloring book. Mike Palozzi mentioned that the Coalition might want to add a link on the Byway web page to the Greater Sebastian River Chamber of Commerce web page for people to be able to purchase Ruth Stanbridge’s “Special Places” booklet, which would be helpful for Byway visitors. The same could be provided to other documents that provide information about places and things found along the Byway Corridor.

Nicole mentioned that another email had been received from a Penn State student that was a Florida resident requesting the Coalition add a link to the Coalition’s web page and Facebook page to a webpage about the condition of the Lagoon and the fish kill that had taken place. The consensus of the Coalition was the suggested web page was not appropriate for the Coalition’s web page and Facebook page.

7. Report of Officers

- a. President – Tim Ford stated that he had talked to the in-coming President of the Suntree Rotary who told him that the Rotary could have a check for the kiosk at Rotary Park around the first part of August. Mr. Ford also said that he had spoken to Justin Ostroff, Kona Construction, who had built the Pineapple Park kiosk for the Coalition and that Justin was willing to construct the Rotary Park kiosk. Tim sent Justin a copy of the plans and asked Justin to provide a cost estimate so he could forward it to the Rotary.
- b. Vice President – Bob Day reported that he had distributed brochures and was going to distribute more in the Cocoa – Rockledge area. Nicole Capp-Holbrook said that she delivered brochures to the Barrier Island Sanctuary.
- c. Treasurer – Nicole Holbrook reported that there was \$525.43 in the account and that she submitted the IRS postcard for the Coalition.

8. Yearly Reporting Update –

- a. 501(c)(3) Annual Report – Karen Wilharm-Ford announced that the report was completed and signed. It will now be posted on the Coalition web page.

9. Florida Scenic Highways Program Update – Claudia Calzaretta provided the following update:
 - a. There was some funding to help with the Coalition’s web site issues and update.
 - b. As mentioned previously, FDOT will look at doing a whole Byway sign assessment/inventory.
 - c. Research has indicated that the actually length of the Byway is 205 miles and not the 233 miles that has been used.
 - d. Claudia has a hard copy of the Byway video.
10. New Business – None.
11. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.