Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway (IRLNSB) Coalition Meeting

 Held Virtually Via Microsoft Teams

November 4, 2021; 10:00 am

Meeting Notes

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

Board of Directors:

Nick Sanzone, President

Bob Day, Vice President

Tim Ford, City of Titusville, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members:

Marsha Cantrell, Resident

Susan Adams, Indian River County Commissioner

Members/Guests:

 Karen Ford, Atkins

Mike Palozzi, Atkins

Dr. Leesa Souto, Marine Resources Council (MRC) CEO

1. Adoption of Minutes – Motion by Marsh Cantrell, second by Susan Adams to approve the meeting minutes from May 6, 2021 and September 2, 2021. The motion was unanimously approved.
2. Presentation –Dr. Leesa Souto, MRC CEO, made a presentation on Low Impact Development (LID) techniques. Dr. Souto said that storm water run-off fuels algae blooms and degrades water quality which kills fish and thus there is a need to reduce stormwater going into the Indian River Lagoon. Aerial photos were shown that showed the urbanization of the area. What were green areas on the map have turned to gray. High volumes of polluted storm water caused by the urbanization has gone into the Indian River Lagoon. To improve the Indian River Lagoon there is a need to turn the gray on the map to green. A way to do that is with pervious pavers/pavement and more landscape and trees. LID techniques get storm water back onto land where rain water can soak into the ground where is lands letting soils and vegetation do its job. There are two (2) strategies to LID. The first is to save and create greenspace. This is done with site planning by developing cluster designed subdivisions, and adding green space to commercial lots. Trees need to be saved and the use of pervious pavers/pavement and rain gardens can be used. The second strategy is connecting gray to green. This is done by putting devices in the right of way to slow down the flow of storm water in the street drainage system, directing building roof run-off to planter boxes, rain barrels, and storm water vaults/cisterns designed to percolate storm water into the ground and directing run-off to green areas. Dr. Souto stated that there are a couple things preventing the use of LIDs. One is distrust by Engineers due to the idea being new and different from past standard practices and another is due to local regulating policies which don’t allow for its practices such as using pervious pavers/pavement nor in its use in the site plan process. The MRC has and will promote the use of LID by holding conferences. This past October over 200 people attended the first LID conference. Future conferences are planned in 2022 to discuss the need for code changes and in 2023 to talk about the technical aspects of LID. Dr. Souto said that community help is needed to implement LID strategies on their properties and in their neighborhoods and cities. Residents need to support tree protection and open space requirements.
3. Election – Bob Loring, Fellsmere City Planner; Ken Parks, MRC ; and Heather Sears, Greater Sebastian River Chamber of Commerce were unanimously elected to the IRLNSB Coalition Board of Directors.
4. 2021 Coalition Meeting Schedule/Guest Speakers – Sarah Kraum, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) was scheduled to be the guest speaker in January, 2022, to talk about the TPO’s Resiliency Plan. Speakers were need for March, May, September and November. Mike Palozzi asked if Susan Adams might recruit a guest speaker from the Indian River County area. Susan said that she would.
5. Adoption of the 2022 Work Plan – This item was carried over from the September meeting. Tim Ford made a motion to approve the Work Plan which was seconded by Bob Day. The motion was unanimously approved.
6. Byway Map Display at the Ted Moorhead Lagoon House Scenic Byway Welcome Center – No report.
7. Greater Sebastian River Chamber of Commerce Update – No report.
8. Kiosks Update – Nick Sanzone did not have anything to report. Mr. Sanzone stated he would check with Jennifer Brusso in Satellite Beach to see where they are with the item. Mike Palozzi informed the Coalition that graphic money from FDOT has been held back until February March due to budget reasons.
9. Website Update –

a. The website domain name was renewed by the Greater Sebastian River Chamber of Commerce.

b. Tim Ford provided an update on the website and Facebook metrics. In the past 28 days, the website had 1,150 sessions; 1,721 pageviews; 92% new visitors; had a device breakdown of 44% desk top, 3% tablet, and 53% mobile devices; and visitors from the top four (4) countries included the U.S.A., China, Canada, and Indonesia. Facebook metrics showed that the Facebook page had 1.1K Likes.

1. Report of Officers
2. President – Nick Sanzone said that Indian River Lagoon Day was in February and asked if the Coalition wanted him to display brochures. Nick was told yes to display the brochures.
3. Vice President – Bob Day reported that the Surfing Santas event was on this year and that the Ocean Beach Reef Festival was scheduled in December.
4. Secretary/Treasurer – Tim Ford informed the attendees that the Coalition’s bank account balance was $1,398.06.
5. Florida Scenic Highways Program Update – Mike Palozzi provided the following update:
6. FSHP Website Update – the website is up and running. Byway pages are being reviewed and cleaned up;
7. State Scenic Highway Conference – FDOT is planning an in-person free 1.5 day state conference for March 22, 2022 in St. Augustine.
8. District 5 Scenic Highway Virtual Workshops – The virtual workshops and Roadside Chats have ended for the year. The workshops can be viewed on YouTube at Central Florida Byways.
9. New Business – Nick Sanzone added that the Front Street Park in Melbourne would be a good site to place a kiosk.

Mike Palozzi stated that based on Leesa Souto’s presentation, a stormwater treatment project might be a possible demo project for a future National Scenic Byways grant.

1. Public Comment – None

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.