

Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee Minutes of April 24, 2006

Members Present:

Christina Teeuwen – Chair
Richard Fisher
Joe Bell
Erin Brown
Connie Smith

Staff Present:

Mark Shea, Planning
Earl Sorey, Public Works
Lennie Luke, Parks and Recreation

The meeting began at 4:40 p.m. Due to a lack of a quorum, no formal motions could be made so the minutes were deferred. Mr. Shea asked the Board's opinion regarding a request from the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) for water trail information. HRPDC was contacted to provide National Park Service with GIS information regarding water trails and how they may link with the proposed John Smith Trail. After reviewing the adopted Trails Plan and information, it appears that the City's information was up to date. A suggestion was made to differentiate between existing and planned put-ins and to also show private marina put-ins on the map. Another suggestion was to indicate that the Lock's Park put-in is the southernmost location in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Mr. Shea discussed the recent Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Great Dismal Swamp and stated that the City supported their preferred development alternative. This includes a Visitor Center on Route 17, a movable pedestrian bridge at the Visitor Center, a trail to Lake Drummond from the bridge, and an observation tower. The City also commented on our plans and the Culpepper project.

Mr. Shea informed the Committee that the City selection committee was currently interviewing engineering firms to design the permanent Dismal Swamp Trail improvements. The Committee requested that they be a part of the process and provided some input on the need for turn arounds at each end of the trail for potential bike races.

Gary Szymanski, of the Army Corps of Engineers, gave a briefing on the Deep Creek drawbridge replacement project at the request of Ms. Teeuwen. He stated that the bridge was to be built with a five foot pedestrian walkway on one side. It would be designed to easily accommodate an additional walkway on the other side. He recommended that with

the new 7-11 construction a sidewalk and crosswalk could be installed to help address pedestrian concerns. He also mentioned that the outside lanes would be 13-14 feet wide to better accommodate bikes. Mr. Shea stated that the proposed Culpepper movable bridge would be a key link in the trail network through Deep Creek.

Mr. Fisher gave an update on his attendance at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. They have generally discussed the budget impact on Parks if the Real Estate Tax is cut further than the City Manager recommendations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.