

**Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee  
Minutes of January 28, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Christina Teeuwen – Chair  
Richard Fisher  
Connie Smith  
David Plewes  
Tom Trumbauer  
Richard Caldwell  
Jacqueline Grubb  
Erin Brown

**Staff Present:**

Mark Shea, Planning  
Earl Sorey, Public Works  
Donna Hill, Parks and Recreation  
Gary Walton, Public Works  
Brian Martin, Parks and Recreation Intern

**Others Present:**

Walt Gonzales

The meeting convened at 4:35 p.m. The first few minutes were spent with introductions as follow:

Ms. Jennie Virden – Recently appointed to Commission, representing bike riders  
Mr. Gary Walton – Public Works staff to assist Earl Sorey with Commission activities  
Mr. Brian Martin – Parks and Recreation intern  
Mr. Walt Gonzales – Owner of Fat Frogs bike shop at the Hanbury Village Shopping Center.

Mr. Shea gave an update on the Dismal Swamp Trail project. The consultant is finishing work necessary to get the project to about 30% design completion. They will be holding a public meeting the last week of February or the first week of March. Most of their design attention has been focused on the boat ramp at the northern trailhead, treatment of the gate bypasses, and the feasibility of a parallel horse trail. They are also getting the web page ready for posting. Mr. Fisher asked if a good portion of the funds will still be available for construction. Mr. Shea felt that this was still the case.

Mr. Sorey stated that there has been no definitive answer from VDOT regarding the bike facility on Dominion Blvd. He indicated that he will promptly inform the Committee

when he hears anything. Mr. Sorey also stated that the Portsmouth Blvd. bike lane project was nearing completion and Gum Road is still severely under funded.

Ms. Hill gave a quick update on the City Park Master Plan.

The meeting continued with a discussion of using utility/power line right of ways/easements for trails. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of utilizing utility right of ways. The Commission asked staff to further study the feasibility of utilizing a Va. Power right of way/easement in the southwestern portion of the City which would allow a connection to the Dismal Swamp Trail. This facility was then highlighted on the easement base map. The horseback riding representatives on the group indicated that a trail needed to be at least 10 miles long to be sufficient for a good trail ride. The Commission agreed that the facility could be unpaved.

Since a quorum of Committee members was present from the Special Meeting of May 21, 2007, Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

The Committee discussed items to be put on the City web page including the following:

- Trail/route information
- Link to bicycle laws
- FAQ's
- Link to "Bicycling in Virginia" and other state/federal regulations
- Link to bicycle clubs and associations (links to be provided by members via e-mail)

The Committee requested that the City seek permission from the Army Corps of Engineers to trim the trees and clear underbrush between the Canal and the Trail.

Ms. Hill asked for input regarding the update of the Parks and Recreation "Scenic Waterways" guide. They will be contacting water user groups and other Cities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.