

Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee Minutes of April 28, 2008

Members Present:

Christina Teeuwen – Chair
Richard Fisher – Vice Chair
Connie Smith
Jacqueline Grubb
Erin Brown
Jennie Virden

Staff Present:

Mark Shea, Planning
Gary Walton, Public Works
Donna Hill, Parks and Recreation

Others Present:

Bruce Drees – East Coast Greenway

The meeting convened at 4:35 p.m. Mr. Drees introduced himself as the regional contact for the East Coast Greenway project. He also serves on the Virginia Beach Trails Advisory Committee. Mr. Drees gave a presentation and distributed maps showing the preferred route of a spur through Hampton Roads. This route would utilize the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail from North Carolina to the northern trailhead. The following roadways would then be utilized to follow the route to Suffolk:

- George Washington Highway to Old Mill Road
- Old Mill Road to Galberry Rd.
- Galberry Road to Military Highway
- Military Highway to Jolliff Road
- Jolliff Road to Portsmouth Boulevard
- Portsmouth Boulevard to Suffolk

The planned four city trail would upgrade the route into Suffolk by utilizing the parallel abandoned rail line. He also showed a conceptual plan to make a loop through the Southside of Hampton Roads which utilized the four city trail to Portsmouth and Indian Creek Road, Gallbush Road, Battlefield Boulevard, and Ballahack Road to get from Virginia Beach back to the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail. After some discussion and words of support from the Commission, Mr. Drees stated that he would ask at a later date for an endorsement by City Council.

The meeting continued with discussion of utilization of the Virginia Power line that crosses George Washington Highway just south of Sawyers Mill and then extends in a southeast direction across Dominion Boulevard and Shillelagh Road to Waters Road. The concept would be to obtain permission to utilize the easement as a multi-use trail. Ms. Grubb contacted Virginia Power and they stated that they would not have an objection but each property owner would have to give their ok. Mr. Shea will provide Ms. Grubb with a list of property owners to contact. Mr. Drees mentioned that the law provides for landowners to sign a release that would not hold them liable to anything that might happen to the user. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Walton gave a brief update on Dominion Boulevard, the Long Bridge and the Deep Creek Drawbridge. The Commission requested that staff inquire with the ACOE about the possibility of thinning the vegetation at points along the Dismal Swamp Canal.

Ms. Grubbs made a motion to adjourn at 6:00.