FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Building More Than Trails

Florida Trail Association Meeting May 2, 2023
Zoom Online

ATTENDING		
Officers: Chair, Bill Turman Vice Chair, Maria Llornes Secretary, Chelsey Stevens Treasurer, Elwood McElhaney	Executive Director: Royce Gibson Directors: Eric Emery Joshua Johnson Karl Byars Leslie Wheeler Michelle Duncan Rick Robbins Tiffany Bright Tom Daniel Kristen Williams	Guests:

ITEM	TOPIC	DISCUSSION/ACTION	RESOLUTION AND FOLLOW-UP
1.	Welcome/Attendance – Bill Turman	Meeting called to order at 6:30pm EST	
2.	Board Orientation Overview – Bill Turman	FTA is a 501 3c Tax exempt organization. Our objective is to act for the best interest of the organization, be fiscally responsible, and ensure that the mission of the organization is being pursued; legally, morally, and ethically. We cannot represent the FTA when participating in political activities without endangering our tax-exempt status. We need to remain focused on the mission of the organization.	Please review our chapter documentation and become familiar with our guidelines, responsibilities, and our mission.

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3.	Approval of April 1st Meeting – Bill Turman	Minutes are approved as amended per comments from Elwood	Chelsey to revise Budget and Financial Information to reference Annual Financial Statement and Redact Budget.
4.	Notice of Correction for Bylaws – Bill Turman and Maria Llorens	There is a conflict in the Bylaws that needs correction. Section 7. Vacancies. Vacancies of Directors on the Board may be filled by a majority vote of the Board, and any person so elected to fill a vacancy on the Board shall serve until the next scheduled election of Directors, when the vacancy will be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the manner prescribed in these bylaws for the regular election of such Director. Section 1. Enumeration and election Officers. In the Event of a Vacancy during the year, the position shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, and the Officer so Chosen shall serve the balance of the unexpired term.	The governance Committee will meet to get the language right. This will be voted on at our next meeting.
5.	Committee Reports – Tom Daniel – Trails Development and Planning Committee	Board approval is needed for changes of the following chapters within the Trail Manual: Chapter 211 Trail Maintainer Document, Chapter 301 Trail coordinator nomination form, Chapter 302 Trail leader form are up for approval.	This has been approved by all members of the BOD
6.	Committee Reports – Maria Llorens – Governance Committee	Met on April 27th and introduced issues and priorities. Currently working on clarifying our strategic plan along with Royce. Executive Director review will take place in the October. Previous board members are staying on the committee. Darryl Updegrove (past committee chair) and Deborah Schroth (past committee member) as NBM (non-board members).	This has been approved by all members of the BOD
7.	Committee Reports – Elwood McElhaney – Finance Committee	Elwood is continuing to lead this committee with key activities including the FY23/24 Draft Financial Budget. They are meeting again in May and hope to be able to present it to the board for recommendation at the June meeting. Our March 31st, quarterly chapter reports were due this past Sunday. We received reports from 17 of the 19 chapters. Suncoast Chapter still has not filed their quarterly report, and the North Florida Trailblazers have not filed a financial report for the fiscal year. The Loxahatchee Chapter has submitted their report but needs to send us their bank statements.	We still need financial reports from 2 chapters.
8.	Committee Reports – Leslie Wheeler – Chapter Council Committee	The committee has not met up yet but will have a schedule set up soon. Working on revising the activity leader power point.	

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9.	Committee Reports – Bill Turman & Kristen Williams – Advancement Committee	Kristen Williams has accepted a leadership role as chair of the Advancement Committee	
10.	Committee Reports – Bill Turman – Nomination Committee	The chair position for the Nomination Committee is currently vacant. We have two vacant positions on the board of directors and are looking to fill these slots as well. Nominations should be sent to Bill Turman.	We are still looking for someone to be the chair of the Nomination Committee
11.	Onboarding Paperwork – Bill Turman	Onboarding paperwork has been submitted to all members of the Board of directors for review and execution.	All members (New and Old) need to execute the conflict-of-interest forms annually
12.	BOD Meeting Schedule – Bill Turman	Our yearly board of directors' schedule has been distributed to all members of the Board. We may change the location of the next in person meeting to coincide with the 2023 partnership of the national trails system workshop on November 7-9. We could potentially meet on Monday the 6th. Board members may be invited to participate in the workshops.	Meeting changes will be confirmed at a later date
13.	Beach to Beach Hiking Trail – Eric Emery	A motion for the FTA to adopt the concept and approves the marketing of a second long distance Thru Hiking option in the state of Florida with the southern terminus at Hobe Sound Florida and the north terminus at Fort Pickens. The beach-to-beach option would utilize the Ocean to Lake Hiking Trail then transition onto the FNST between Lake Okeechobee and Fort Pickens. Use of either the eastern or western corridor would count as an appropriate option for completion of the beach-to-beach trail. The Forest Service is interested in adding the Hobe Sound terminus as an alternative route for completing the FNST. There has been opposition from the chapter to moving forward with formal FNST adoption. We would like to get the chapter on board with the idea. Many members feel this is a great idea but want to roll it out more formally. We want to give staff the opportunity to offer input. It may be premature to formally adopt at this point. Tiffany suggested a tentative announcement posted while we prepare to present a more unified front.	The motion to Market the Beach-to-Beach trail has been approved by Tom Daniel, Kristen Williams, Eric Emery, Tiffany Bright, Bill Turman, Karl Byars, and Maria Llorens. (I counted 7 approved, though it was noted as 8 in the meeting) The motion was opposed by Leslie Wheeler and Elwood McElhaney. The motion is abstained by Chelsey Stevens, Josh Johnson, Rick Robbins, and Michelle Duncan. We are moving forward with the motion to market the beach-to-beach trail.

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14.	Hikers Safety Policy – Royce Gibson	There have been issues with aggressive hikers in the past year to include sexual and physical threats and actions. The FTA unfortunately cannot do much to protect people while on the trail. However, we want to be more proactive in informing people on what they can do if they encounter an issue. The FTA has implemented a script on their phone line to call 911 in case of an emergency.	The FTA has written up a draft safety policy for approval by the BOD. This has been distributed to all members. We are leaving it in the governance committees' hands to revies.
15.	Florida Travel Advisory – Royce Gibson	Equality Florida is not calling for a boycott of the state but is wanting to provide an opportunity for people to speak out regarding issues of inequality. Royce is working with the partners of the National Trails System to clear up issues they have with hosting their event in Florida.	We are working with Equality Florida to make sure our November event is inclusive.
16.	Motion to Adjure – Bill Turman	Motion to adjourn by Tom Daniel, Motin seconded b Chelsey Stevens. The meeting ended after 1 hour and 39 minutes of discussion.	

Submitted by Chelsey Stevens, Secretary, FTA BOD

Approved by Board of Directors Vote:

This was approved at the June 6th 2023 Board meeting