

Old Florida Heritage Highway Corridor Management Council November 2011 Minutes

Present: Scott Richardson [President & Evinston Resident]; Ed Geers [Micanopy Historical Society]; Ashley Wood [Evinston Resident]; Freddie Wood [Evinston Resident]; Betsy Hurst [County Resident]; Matt Bledsoe [Paynes Prairie SP]; Bryna Zhou [UF Tourism graduate student]; Debrah Miller [FDOT District 2 scenic byway coordinator]; Steve Scanlan [FDOT Engineer]; Kathleen Pagan [County GM,]; Bob Finck [PBS&J, FDOT consultant].

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Scott Richardson. Draft October Meeting minutes were Approved unanimously.

President Report by Scott Richardson thanked all who helped at the Micanopy Fall Festival booth. Debrah Miller distributed 4 CDs with photos of the festival taken by FDOT photographer Dwight Forsyth. Scott provided an update on the 501-c-3 application, mentioning a form letter that the 2nd level review is underway. He reported two new members [+ \$30 to revenues] and no expenditures.

Mission and Vision statement revisions:

Discussion by all present with consensus agreement to amend as follows:

Mission: Old Florida Heritage Highway's mission is to preserve and promote the corridor, while fostering community involvement and educating visitors on the outstanding nature and unique features of this corridor.

Vision: Old Florida Heritage Highway, US 441 from the north rim of Paynes Prairie to the Alachua/Marion County line, and the loop/spur roads will continue to be the jewel of North Florida rich in natural and cultural resources. The entire corridor will continue to tell the human settlement and natural landscape story of North Florida and seek to protect, preserve and promote this heritage of "Old Florida". Community support of the Old Florida Heritage Highway will encourage the preservation of the intrinsic beauty of the road and seek to maintain this corridor as a perpetual asset to the State of Florida while encouraging resource based recreation, and heritage and agri-tourism, which will promote local businesses along the corridor.

Five Year Update- Bob Finck reported on his work and stated he will complete the general report by the deadline. He will defer the update of goals to early 2012. Ashley Wood mentioned the 501-c-3 status for Wood and Swink Preservation Society is pending and this could be noted in the update. Ed Geers also mentioned the Battle of Micanopy archeological site and the efforts for a historic marker.

Byway Grant- Since Matt Bledsoe reported the Phase 3 of the Friends of Paynes Prairie grant is not to be completed until July 2012, Debrah Miller advised to wait until next year to apply for the next phase of this project. Debrah also explained the soft match process. With the OFHH non-profit status still pending and the timeframe very constrained to attempt a governmental application is not feasible. Consensus agreement not to apply for grant this cycle.

Staff Kathleen Pagan will check with Manager of MK Rawlings Park to ensure the information is known.

NEH Grant- Staff Kathleen Pagan mentioned an NEH grant that could be applicable. Ashley Wood cautioned that Florida public school staff have limited time due to FCAT for such extra projects.

Upcoming Events-

Photo Contest- Scott Richardson announced FDOT photographer Dwight Forsyth has agreed to serve as judge.

Crane Fest- Matt Bledsoe explained the event that will be based at Prairie Lodge with guided tours to Bolens Bluff, La Chua Trail, Gainesville Hawthorne Trail and the UF Cattle Unit. Debrah Miller will provide info items.

Website- Discussion to include membership levels for businesses. Website should include info about businesses along corridor and supporting groups.

District Coordinator Report- Debrah Miller mentioned the possibility of antique appraisal for fundraiser (Penney Farms byway had a successful event), and Ed Geers noted the Micanopy Historical Society has held such an event.

Briefing Points- Matt Bledsoe provided an information item with data on the economic benefit of Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. This includes 164.5 jobs and \$8.4 million local impact. He also stated the park is seeking funding for ADA access improvements.

Discussion of Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 26 with nominations from floor. Food will be pot-luck with byway providing main course.