
MINUTES
DARTS POLICY COMMITTEE
The Bindery @Oakland, 445 W. Oakland Parkway
Leesburg, Georgia 31763
December 6, 2013

PRESENT: Rick Muggridge, Vice-Chair, Lee County Commissioner
Richard Crowdis, Dougherty County Administrator
Jeff Sinyard, Dougherty County Commission
Ron Rabun, Lee County Administrator
Shane Pridgen, Georgia Department of Transportation (voting for Joe Sheffield, GDOT District Engineer)

ABSENT: Dorothy Hubbard, Chairperson, Mayor, City of Albany
James Taylor, City Manager
Dave Cox, GDOT Planning (voting for Cynthia VanDyke, State Transportation Planning Administrator)
Joe Sheffield, GDOT District Engineer

OTHERS

PRESENT: Paul Forgey, Director Planning & Development Services, City of Albany
Jennifer Newton, Transportation Planner
Bob Alexander, Leesburg City Manager
Drew Murray, Planner I
Gloria Thompson, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Rick Muggridge called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He introduced Ron Rabun, Lee County Administrator and special guest, Johnny Floyd, 2nd congressional district representative for Department of Transportation Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 19, 2013)

There being no corrections or changes, a motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve the September 19, 2013 minutes. Mr. Crowdis seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TOPIC I – Proposed Bike Trail

Lynn Pflapse, president of local IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) gave a powerpoint presentation (on file) concerning the Flint River Trail. She displayed a map of the trail that starts behind the Civic Center and goes to Well Avenue, a distance of 8 miles and noted the need to start work on the return rail in order to host events at this location. The IMBA trail crew will be in Albany February 13-16, 2014 to help with the return trail. Ms. Pflapsen stated the goal is to have an off road trail to utilize the kayake put-ins downtown and have a bike ride and trail run. She pointed out IMBA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to create, enhance and preserve great mountain biking experiences. IT is important to have a relationship with IMBA because they will come in a teach people in the community how to build sustainable trails and teach about the environment. The Flint River

SORBA is dedicated to improving off road biking recreational opportunities within the Southwest Georgia region and serves as an advocate for the creation maintenance, and environmental stewardship of quality trail systems within the region. Ms. Pflepsen noted they depend on donations for tools for people to volunteer and work on the trails. Some items in need: shovels, rakes, pruners, wheel barrow, chainsaw, blowers, flag rape and other items.

There was a discussion concerning Greenspace property and the route of the trail. Ms. Pflepsen noted IMBA chapter itself would be responsible for maintenance of the trail.

In response to questions by Mr. Sinyard concerning funds, Ms. Pflepsen stated IMBA works to obtain grants. She noted the chapter was contacted by the Greenspace Committee saying this is what they would like to accomplish with the property. Ms. Newton stated CTC is interested and forwarded this onto Policy.

A discussion concerning the route followed.

TOPIC II – Transportation Enhancement Study for Lee County and Leesburg

Ken Rickett, ERA Architects, gave preliminary costs forecasts – 2014 TE Master Plan (copy on file). He outlines proposed landscaped islands in front of the courthouse and governmental building; courthouse parking – front and back lots and drives; Train Depot parking; resurfacing-SR 195, SR32, 4th Street; landscaping at governmental building; and demolition of dilapidated gas station building.

Mr. Alexander spoke in order to get some work done an idea is to take part of this as a transportation enhancement project as there are state routes involved; there is a need to relocate parking in front of the courthouse. He noted they will apply for transportation enhancement project funds, \$500,000, next year; of which \$300,000 is for parking, the other for beautification projects.

A discussion followed concerning the parking around the courthouse.

TOPIC III – Forrester Parkway Extension

Mr. Mugridge updated SPLOST funding for Westover Road to Ledo to Fussell.

Mr. gave an update on the Forrester Parkway noting the following: property will have to be purchased at the end of Glenndale Road; and one public hearing has taken place.

NEW BUSINESS – By Law Change

Mr. Forgey stated the City of Leesburg is interested in becoming a full partner with DARTS program, now it is Lee and Dougherty County and Albany. Staff will need to bring by-law changes to the Committee at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.