



Executive Committee Meeting February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Kurt Ardaman
Lesa Boettcher
Barbara Giles

Emily Hanna
Stephen Koontz
Nick Lepp

Welcome, Approval of January minutes

Emily Hanna welcomed committee members.

Emily suggested replacing “documentation” with “staff hours and other expenditures” under the Administration section of the January minutes. With the changes, Lesa Boettcher made a motion to approve the minutes, and Kurt Ardaman seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Update on resolutions, letters of support

Emily shared that Winter Garden and Ocoee have passed resolutions of support and participation of the HWOTC. Similar resolutions are on Oakland and Windermere’s agendas February 22 and March 8, respectively. HWOTC also has received letters of support from Gotha Rural Settlement, Orange County Parks and MetroPlan Orlando. Emily said we are awaiting letter of support from FDOT and other supporting agencies.

She also explained why she wants to invite South Apopka and Tildenville Safe Neighborhood Associations as supporting agencies. Executive committee members had no concerns about inviting them.

West Side Vocational School Bus Depot and New Location

Kurt shared that OCPS is proposing construction of a bus depot at the current West Side Vocational Tech campus. Winter Garden and local residents are against it. Among many other negatives, there is concern about pedestrian and bicycle safety in the area. A community meeting will be held tonight. Kurt also shared that the new location for VoTech is along the WOT near Ocoee High School. Emily will look into OCPS’s design plans for buffering next to the trail.

MetroPlan Orlando Mapping Project

Emily invited Nick Lepp, director of transportation planning for MetroPlan Orlando, to the meeting to discuss an MPO mapping project of future bicycle/pedestrian routes and trails throughout Central Florida. They are currently scoping the project. This is the first part of MPO’s feasibility study for the region’s 2045 Vision, and they are starting with bike/ped needs. The bike/ped study will explore if there is a need and can it be done. The project will start in March or April. Fehr & Peers and xGeographic will lead the project.

Nick also shared some background on MetroPlan Orlando, the federal transportation infrastructure funding and Orange County’s proposed transportation tax.



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Steering Committee Agenda

Emily reviewed the agenda and discussion for the February 17, 2022, steering committee meeting.

The committee discussed how the FOLA-initiated trail design standards group fits into HWOTC and what other sub-committees or working groups make sense as HWOTC begins its work. Emily shared that the FOLA design committee is considering her recommendation to fold their work into HWOTC but continue their four restoration projects along the trail. She will attempt to reach out to Joe Dunn before the steering committee meeting to hear his feedback.

The executive committee discussed HWOTC next steps including:

1. Continue to collaborate, connect and enhance the trail system in West Orange County
2. Work with and support MetroPlan Orlando's network study
3. Create working groups to achieve established goals
 - A. Safety
 - B. Design
 - C. Communications/Events
4. Engage and Empower residents in West Orange County to use the trails by creating a launch/activation event
 - A. Work with partners to launch an event that would be the West Orange Trails Connection's own annual event.

Project Timeline

Emily shared that she has drafted a four-year timeline proposing how HWOTC will reach its goals. She will send it to the committee for discussion at the next meeting.

Action items

Emily will reach out to OCPS to ask for the plans for the new Vo Tech. Barbara will ask Matt Suedmeyer if anything has been shared with him.

Emily/Barbara will send the committee four-year HWOTC timeline for discussion at next meeting.

Barbara will send Lesa a draft for the HWOTC web content next week.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. – Barbara will send calendar invites for remainder of year.