

Coastal Georgia Greenway
McIntosh County Meeting
Ida Hilton Public Library
Tuesday, June 20, 2007 10-noon

Meeting summary

13 were in attendance

Herb Hiller, East Coast Greenway GA/FL Coordinator Remarks

Herb Hiller provided an overview of the trails movement including the development of the rails to trails movement and the subsequent development of the East Coast Greenway Alliance, organized with the goal of connecting over 3000 miles of off road paved trails from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida, now almost 25% complete.

Status of Coastal Georgia Greenway Trails in McIntosh County

- Jo gives an overview and mentions that she can assist McIntosh County to write grants for the project. She mentions that the Gullah-Geechee National Heritage Corridor has been designated by congress and the advisory board will be announced this fall. She mentions the need to work with Glynn County regarding the Altamaha Scenic-Historic Byway (from Landing Road on SR 99, to Darien and south on US 17 to Needwood Church in Glynn County).
- Jim Morrison has worked to build the trail for the past 11 years, he reports submission of a TE funding application, requesting \$1 million, with \$250,000 local match, by the June 15th deadline. Funding is for Phase II from Blue N Hall Road to Landing Road (leading to the Sapelo Island Visitor Center/Trailhead)
- To date, McIntosh County has contributed +/- \$18,000 and \$3,721,966 funding has been raised for the trails in 6 counties, since 1993 (incl. \$1,260,000 for the Truman Linear Park Trail in Chatham County, HPP project)
- He is Project Manager for two construction projects (total \$450,000):
 - \$200,000 TE funds with \$50,000 local match
 - \$160,000 High Priority Project funds with \$40,000 local match
 - Funding for Phase I of the Highlander Trail on the east side of SR 99 from McIntosh Blvd. (in Darien, linking to their existing pedestrian corridor) to Blue N Hall Road, (the County's boat launch site will be the trailhead)
 - Quite a bit of paperwork to complete prior to letting the project for bids
 - Forsees construction underway within 2 years

Jo Hickson then led a facilitated discussion including small group sessions.

- Top reasons for attending the meeting:
 1. Trail addresses local concerns (safety, need for daily exercise, etc.)
 2. Regional connections / accessibility
 3. Promotes tourism

Jo reviewed our existing To Do list for McIntosh County:

- Advise Jim Morrison re: Highlander Trail – budget, contracts, schedule of activities
- Contact Scenic Byway person in Darien and Glynn County
- Apply for 1-GA funding, coordinate with City of Darien and Glynn County
- Get and review Greenprint for McIntosh County, also list of attendees

Other Projects / Tasks

- Coastal Birding Trail (GDNR)
- Gullah-Geechee National Heritage Corridor
- Altamaha Scenic/Historic Byway
- Rails to Trails RDC feasibility study
- McIntosh Greenprint
- Upcoming Comprehensive Plan (need trail to be in this plan!)

Achievable goals for the next 2 years

- Assist Jim with existing construction project AND funding for Phase II
Write OneGeorgia Grant – Cooperate with City of Darien and Glynn Co.
- Get McIntosh County to commit budget
- Build local Support

OneGeorgia Grant

Challenges

- Identify Sponsor
- Partner with City of Darien (City limits now extend south on US 17 to Glynn County line) and Glynn County
- Grant defined as design for extending trail on US 17 south to Harry Driggers Blvd. (in Glynn), approximately \$100,000; and Construction of Phase II on SR 99 from Blue N Hall Road to Landing Road, approximately \$400,000. Use existing \$450,000 as local match

Strategies

- Lobby Glynn Co for shared administration of OneGeorgia Grant with City of Darien
- Raise other local funds up to \$50,000 (Bikes Belong \$10,000, Private Design Firm Grant \$10,000)

Budgeting

Challenges

- Establish timeline – NOW

Strategies

- Meet with County Commission + County Manager
- Follow-up

Local Support

Challenges

- Designation?

Strategies

- Publicize trail at Day in Darien – November 10 (Veterans Day), sites are Downtown, AT, Fort King George
- Plan bike event with Herb Hiller, ECGA

What opportunities to collaborate

- Media
- FLETC

- Bike shops
- Air National Guard
- Glynn County Commission
- Glynn Chamber of Commerce – Woody Woodside
- City of Brunswick
- Bicycle Ride Across GA (BRAG)
- City & Co. Development Authority
- RDC
- Lions Club, Optimist Club, other local clubs

What opportunities might we address together?

- Motivate Government/budget
- Compete for grants
- Local Public Relations
- Gain Glynn County Support
- Get manpower

Goals for the next 2 years

- Execute existing grants (get project into budget)
- Raise local support for #1, City, co. commission, Co. Manager
- ECGA support at all states – esp. publicity
- Obtain more funding

Next meeting date was discussed, and we agreed to meet sometime in October. We will provide full details when plans have been set.

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