

**BROOKSVILLE VISION FOUNDATION (BVF)
STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MEETING**

**Brooksville City Council Chambers
201 Howell Avenue
Brooksville, FL 34601**

MINUTES

May 17, 2016

4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members and Guests

Members and guests present:

Cliff Manuel, BVF President
Michael Heard
Robert Buckner - BVF Treasurer
Sue Rupe
Brent Whitley
Jimmy Kimbrough
Mike Walker
Duane Chichester
Jimmy Ladato
Natalie Kahler, City Council Member
Sonny Vergara
Vince Vanni
Lisa Callea
Anesta Boice
Lara Bradburn
Adam Brooks
Lauren Rouhana
Jennifer Rey
Steve Gouldman, City Planner
Dennis Wilfong
Barbara Manuel
William Kemerer, City Council Member
Bill Geiger
Jennifer Battista, recording secretary

The Brooksville Vision Foundation Stakeholders Council meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by BVF Chair, Cliff Manuel.

Approval of minutes – February 17, 2016

Motion:

Motion was made Vergara and seconded by Heard to approve the February 17, 2016 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Partnership - Rotary Club President and Hernando County Library Collection Development Coordinator, Lauren Rouhana and Hernando County Library Director, Adam Brooks.

Presentation: Lauren Rouhana/Adam Brooks

Chairman Manuel stated that the Brooksville Vision Foundation is interested in partnering with those interested in the vision of Brooksville and the ability to attract future investors for growth.

Adam Brooks introduced himself in his position with the library, stating that the Library's 5K is held in the downtown and would make a presentation to the BVF when the event gets closer.

GNT/C2C Connector – Update of study by MPO consultant

Presenter: Bill Geiger, Community Development Director

Community Development Director Geiger advised that the MPO has hired a consultant to complete an alternatives route analysis for bringing the C2C trail into Brooksville to connect to the trailhead on Russell St. The consultant has held open houses, conducted community outreach, facilitated surveys, and posted information on their website in an effort to get community input to select a preferred route from Cobb Road to the Trailhead through Brooksville, with a second alternative for consideration.

Community Development Director Geiger went over the preferred route proposed by the consultant that would bring the C2C from the intersection of SR 50 and Cobb Road, heading East along W. Jefferson Street to Darby Lane; continuing on through the Tom Varn Park area on trail designated rights-of-way; further connecting via City rights-of-way (Fridy Place and Benton Avenue) to US 41 Broad Street; then heading Northeasterly along Broad Street to its' intersection with Main Street; and continuing South on Main Street to connect with the existing Good Neighbor Trail trailhead. The BVF discussed the cross walks, at-grade crossings and other details of the proposed trail connection. Chairman Manuel advised that the trail is expected to attract 50,000 bikers per month and it is crucial to bring these people into the City of Brooksville. He stated that a route utilizing the truck by-pass would cost an estimated \$50 million dollars as opposed to the alternate route through the City which could be built for an estimated \$10 million.

There will be an open house at the Enrichment Center conducted by the consultant on May 26th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Mr. Geiger encouraged attendance at this open house. Chairman Manuel stated that City Council will be supporting the preferred route through a resolution to be sent to appropriate agencies and it is his understanding that the City will not be maintaining a trail route that involves the by-pass.

Update on Main St. Program

Presenter: Duane Chichester

Duane Chichester went over a power point presentation, which was also presented at the May 16, 2016, Council meeting, wherein the Council approved a resolution to financially contribute to the Main Street Program. His power point included information regarding

the organization of the Main Street Program utilizing a board of directors, the position of Program Manager and the set-up of various committees. He touched on the funding contributions required by Private and Government sources. Each source will need to approve a three year commitment of \$51,000.00 annually.

Mr. Chichester informed those present of upcoming meetings. The first of these will be a presentation before the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners on May 24th requesting their approval of a resolution supporting the Main Street Program through a financial contribution. The County's financial support will be added to the City's for a combined amount to reach the "Government source" financial requirement.

Mr. Chichester specifically went over the responsibilities of the committees and the committee members, as follows:

Organization Committee:

Cliff Manuel, Chair, Sonny Vergara, Michael Heard, Darryl Johnston, Jo-Anne Peck, Jennifer Rey and Barbara Manuel.

Promotion Committee:

Barbara Manuel, Chair, Jimmy Kimbrough, Michael Heard, Cherie Miller, Katrina Butler, Mike Walker, Tammy Heon and Vince Vanni.

Design Committee:

Chair Jo-Anne Peck, Matt Lowman, Jim Carman, Bob Rogers, Bill Geiger and Alan Garman.

Economic Vitality Committee:

Chair Jennifer Rey, Brent Whitley, Sue Rupe, Greg Stephens, Tyler Stapleton and Dennis Wilfong.

Chairman Manuel requested that all committee chairs and members mentioned who are present agree to their respective appointment. Duane Chichester advised that the Brooksville Vision Foundation Board of Directors will need to submit a letter of support and officially approve the members of the committees.

In response to Chairman Manuel's encouragement for those attending to serve on one of the committees, Adam Brooks, on behalf of the Library, agreed to serve on the Promotion Committee and Lauren Rouhana, on behalf of the Rotary, agreed to serve on the Economic Vitality Committee.

Michael Heard offered her opinion that should someone not be able to attend one of the meetings, there should be the ability to attend via "skype", to which Chichester advised he would work on.

In response to Lara Bradburn's question, Duane Chichester stated that he would check with Ronni Wood, Florida Main Street's Executive Director, and get her advice on whether someone from City Council and the County Commission should act as a liaison/ex-officio member on the organizational committee.

Chairman Manuel interjected that for this program to be a success, it will require the City and the County to work together at the highest level possible.

Wrap-up report on 2016 Blueberry Festival

Presenter: Michael Heard

Michael Heard went over the fifth annual event recently held, stating that while attendance may not have increased a significant amount based on gate entries, more revenue was generated than in previous years. Those numbers are not available until after they presented to the Blueberry Festival Board. She touched on the increase in alcohol sales, the high return rate of vendors and nearly 100% rate of the sponsors. A questionnaire is being distributed to vendors, sponsors and attendees and once those have been returned, a workshop will be held in an effort to improve next year's event.

Mrs. Heard stated that while she does not know the amount yet, there will be a donation from the revenues made to the Brooksville Vision Foundation, the endowment fund and to the Main Street Program. She commended all volunteers and private and public partners for their support in helping make this community event a success.

Chairman Manuel advised that the Blueberry Growers' Association is considering making Brooksville its potential home for their state-wide organization. Michael Heard advised that the president of the Growers' Association may be making a presentation at an upcoming BVF meeting.

Additional Items for Discussion

Art in the Park

Sonny Vergara reported on the success of the Art in the Park event held in March. They will be discussing ways to improve on the entrance gates location and entrance fees.

Courthouse Renovation

Sonny Vergara advised that he had attended a meeting with Teri Hunter, a grants writer for Hernando County, who has been meeting with a committee in an effort to put together a grant for \$500,000 to begin the restoration process of the courthouse.

Spring Hill Art League

Mr. Vergara informed those present that the league is going through reorganization and there is an ongoing effort to make the City of Brooksville an "art center" for this entire state region.

Hernando Park

Michael Heard questioned and Sonny Vergara advised that while the County may not turn ownership over to the City, there is still interest incorporating the park in the plans for Brooksville to become an art designation for the county.

Reminder of next meeting date – August 16, 2016

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.


Jennifer J. Battista
Brooksville Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: 8/16/16