



Scenic Sumter Heritage Byway
Byway Organization Meeting
Minutes –May 16, 2017 - 11:00 AM
Webster Community Center
49 SE 1st Avenue
Webster, FL

- I. **Call to Order and introduction of guests:** Meeting was called to order by Chair, Kelly Williams (Private Citizen). Others in attendance include: Judie Mueller (Treasurer and Webster Postmaster); Martin Steele (Vice Chair); Richard Baier (Sumter County BOCC); Kristin Wood (Dade Battlefield Historic Society); Jackey Jackson (Sumter County Public Works); Lorena Cucek (FDOT); Karen Ford (Atkins/FDOT); and Claudia Calzaretta (FDOT/FSHP).

- II. **Review of May 16, 2017 Minutes** – Meeting minutes approval moved to July 2017 meeting.

- III. **Treasurer’s Report**-Judie Mueller reported the beginning balance for May 2017 was \$2,672.32 with no transactions leaving an ending balance of \$2,672.32. Judie is still reconciling the difference in the bank balance from prior months. Martin Steele made the motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report with the \$27.00 discrepancy to be corrected. Kelly Williams 2nd. Approved as is.

- IV. **CME Working Committees**–Committee reports are follows:
 - A. **Organizational Sustainability-**
 1. Annual Work Plan-discussed the annual work plan and the need for membership recruitment strategies as there are always the same four volunteers working the events. Lorena Cucek recommended reaching out to local high schools for students who need community service hours. South Sumter has a Key Club/Civic Clubs and/or Parent-Teacher Organizations; Community Colleges especially the History departments are a great resource for volunteers as well. Rich Baier had some ideas regarding recruitment of citizens from The Villages and said he will reduce that to writing so that it may be considered while we are creating the Annual Plan.
 2. Board Manual-this task is underway. The Board Manual will be updated to give the present and future board members the opportunity to learn about the organization.
 - B. **Coast to Coast Connector Update-** Lorena Cucek reported that the contract was executed May 3, 2017. Kelly asked Lorena if the consultant can make sure that the City of Webster and SSHB are kept in the loop. Lorena said that they are in the process of completing the Public Outreach pamphlet, new flyers and the schedule of public meetings. Coordination with Sumter County already occurred to ensure that the opportunity was not missed for public involvement with both projects (CR 470 and C2C).

C. Transportation Alternative Program (Exit 309 Project) –Senator Bill Nelson’s office sent a letter to the Florida National Cemetery requesting support in the project. The FNC responded that they are unable to provide a letter of support because the proposed project is not on Veteran’s Affairs property, but would like to be involved in the review of the plans. Congressman Daniel Webster’s office reached out to Kelly on Friday, June 16th, requesting a draft of a letter of support.

V. Lorena Cucek Presentation-SR 50 Widening Presentation-Lorena, the project manager, provided an overview for this project. Public Workshop will ask for public input regarding the subject of the feasibility study (lane widening, possible improvements to 471, CR 33 and a tie-in to Hernando US 301 project, along with a passing lane through Withlacoochee State Forest on the east and west side of the Withlacoochee River bridge). FDOT is meeting with the State Forest to obtain permits and discuss soil and geotechnical work. There will be environmental impacts to the alternatives. There will be a public meeting on July 11th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Mascotte Center and July 13th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Ridge Manor Community Center to show the widening alternatives. Lorena encouraged all to attend at least one of these important public meetings. The South Sumter Project is gathering data from the feasibility study to move forward with the stakeholders into the new PD&E phase (see attached newsletter).

VI. Byway Partners/Business Sponsorship Program

A. Kiosk Location Update-three kiosk panels are underway: Webster, Van Fleet Trailhead, I-75 NB Rest Area. Mike and Karen are compiling the history/write-ups for these locations/themes. Martin Steel reported that he spoke with Lucinda Williams at Van Fleet State Park and they are willing to re-paint the existing kiosk.

VII. Media Updates

A. Social Media-Facebook friends up to 612.

B. Ride Sumter Card- finalized. Karen will send the final high resolution camera-ready card to the byway organization.

VIII. Past/Upcoming Events

A. Bushnell Fall Fest-October 21, 2017. Cow Chip Bingo will take place.

B. Annual Dinner-October 11, 2017. The group discussed inviting Congressman Daniel Webster to speak. Kelly volunteered to reach out to Daniel Webster’s aide to see if he can speak on that date.

IX. Florida Scenic Highways Program Report- Claudia Calzaretta

I. Quarterly Byway Forum-Kelly reported that a statewide meeting may take place. Kelly volunteered he SSHB to help with an agenda and logistical support for the meeting. Kelly is working to send a byway info package to Mike Dew. The SSHB has encouraged all other byways to do the same to create a more impactful impression on the new state Secretary.

II. Statewide Byway Workshop-discussion is still taking place with the state. A decision has not been made yet.

X. Public Comment/Round Table Discussion-Adopt-A-Highway scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at Florida National Cemetery.

XI. Adjournment-Next Meeting July 18, 2017 at Bushnell City Hall in Bushnell, FL.

Respectfully submitted by: Dawn A. Cary, Secretary/Treasurer