

William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway
Corridor Management Group
Meeting Notes – Thursday, May 15, 2025, 6:30 PM

Meeting Commenced at 6:35pm

1. Introductions of those Present: Al Abbatiello, Melissa Brunz, Luis Caballero, Ann-Marie Evans, Charlie Hunt, Janet Joiner, Joe McAnarney, Angie McFarland, Didi Owen and Mike Palozzi. 2 attendees were guests that saw a meeting notice in the Creekline Newsletter.

2. Approve March Minutes. Motion made by Al, seconded by Melissa with a consensus vote of members present.

3. Committee Reports

a. Treasurer - Ending April balance is \$7,695.77, available balance as of the date of this meeting is \$7,857.78. Al collected funds from the Bartram Bash and at the Bartram Living History Festival (Joe collected funds there as well). Approval of the treasurer's report made by motion of Al and seconded by Joe with a consensus vote of members present.

b. Membership – Melissa has letter ready to go, she just needs the email list. Agreed by membership that the letter should come from Joe as the chair. Joe will work to get this project moving along.

c. Website Update – Melissa and Joe discussed the website and potential improvements that could be made. The A1A Scenic Highway has an excellent website where sponsors are pinned. Joe discussed possibly adding sponsors to our website and seeing if donors are interested in promoting us via their websites with “proud sponsor of” with our logo and hyperlink. Joe likes the content on the Bartram Trail Society of Florida website, Melissa can add information to our website. Melissa talked about the donate button needing a message and that we need content for our blog. Mike commented that photos are very important for the website, work plan and annual report. Photos help to identify what we are passionate about.

d. Facebook – Luis asked if it is possible to upload agendas, minutes and by-laws to the website and Facebook. Mike said he was on a statewide call today and the ability to post agendas and minutes ensures that we are in compliance with state Sunshine laws. Of historical interest, prior to 2005, the county prepared our agendas and minutes. Angie has been posting on Facebook and sharing posts. Please send potential posts to Angie. No donations have been paid through Facebook, but the button does work and enables people to pay membership dues that way should they choose to.

4. Project Ideas and Updates

a. Bartram Living History Festival – Joe manned a table at this event and Al recruited 2 new members. They both received donations and distributed brochures, etc. This year's event included a food truck. Joe and Al felt that the table location near the historical home on the property was a good location for being able to reach people.

b. Wildflowers at Julington Creek Bridge – The wildflower program that Amy is working on does not involve the transfer of any money. We need to have further discussion about where the flowers need to go in the medians. The medians are located in various spots off and on for about a mile. FDOT will do scheduling, planting, etc. FDOT has done this type of work on other highways/bi-ways including the Old Florida Heritage Highway. Mike suggested that we tackle one plot at a time. Amy had indicated that we will only get a certain amount of seeds.

- No other new updates but Amy is checking in regularly with FDOT to ensure this project moves forward.

c. Decals – Melissa discussed the decals and the idea of incorporating sponsorship with a link to our website page which then features the sponsor. Melissa received a cost estimate from Coastal Postal for the 1st dozen ranging from \$1.00 to \$1.50 each. Joe made a motion to approve the cost, Angie seconded and there was consensus. Luis asked if Amy has the capability to print decals, she does not.

d. Bartram Library

- Joe attended a Friends of the Library meeting. The Audobon Switzerland Garden Club would like to join us in having a home base for people to learn about our area. The library branch manager invited a conversation and is willing to set aside a wall or an area for the Bartram Scenic Highway to display presentation boards and materials to reflect the plan with illustrations. Joe said that aquatic plantings and outdoor areas are in the masterplan.

e. Switzerland Community Center

- Switzerland Community Center will be leased from the County to Operation Lifeline (a veteran services organization). Operation Lifeline has asked for funding from the County. NE Florida Homebuilders is donating labor and materials to help with this project. A feasibility study is in the current budget. It is a bonus that the center can be used for community activities. The building itself is historic and is in the masterplan. Discussion about William Bartram Scenic Highway taking some credit for helping to get the center renovated. Maybe some signs or a post on Facebook?

f. County Proclamation

- Mike sent a draft proclamation to Joe. Al made some edits to the proclamation. Someone may try to contact the daughter of Mary Cornwell to let her know about the proclamation presentation. Mary was instrumental in forming the William Bartram Historic Highway for this area. The presentation will coincide nicely with the 20th anniversary of the highway. Scheduled for 6/17/25 and Krista Keating-Joseph has confirmed it is on the agenda.

g. Neighborhood National Parks. Discussed briefly and possibly partnering with the Audobon Society.

h. Other

5. FDOT / FSHP Updates

a. Mike

- Mike relayed a newsletter will be coming out in June. If we can get a photograph from the Board of County Commission proclamation presentation, then Mike can include that in the quarterly newsletter. If we think of anything else that we'd like to have included, let Mike know.
- There is a National Scenic Bi-way webinar in the works, Mike will keep us updated.

6. Public Comments

- We had guests that saw an ad in the Creekline publication. The guests recently saw a lot of changes, surveys, markings by big trees and are concerned.

7. Next Meeting Date – June 19, 2025 @ 6:30pm. Reminder that there are no meetings in July, August and December.

8. Adjourned at 7:37pm