

To: Mayor and City Commissioners
From: Patricia Sinclair, MSW
Re: Consent Agenda Item 7
Date: July 21, 2015

I ask that Item 7 be removed from the consent agenda and that the changes requested to the existing Baldwin Creek Trail be denied. That is, that staff be instructed NOT to initiate the vacation process of the existing pedestrian and greenspace easement on two tracts and NOT work with the property owners to establish new easements.

In attempting to study the memo and map submitted, little detail is provided and the map is very difficult to study due to its large format and multiple lines showing the areas of floodplain, and landowners, but I spent considerable time doing so. It also shows as sheet 1 of 2, but I was unable to pull up another sheet.

The easements were acquired in 2008. It appears that Parks and Rec has met with (and spent money for) CFS Engineers to show possible routes. One appears to be an existing easement/route.

Two property owners, Compton Farms, LLC and Rebecca J. Finney, are said to be interested in maintaining some large grass fields which are in the easement and so want to change the existing easement and trail/route.

I presume that this trail is or will be open to the public, so it is important to give the public the greatest benefit, not the landowners who have already had the easement in place since 2008 unless there is some great advantage to be gained by the public by its relocation.

The memo states "To-date, all concerned feel that the proposed trail might be better situated on property slightly outside of the existing easements...." Who are these "all"? And why say "might,"

To try to clarify, the existing pedestrian easement is shown as a solid line on the map and the dashed line for the proposed changed pedestrian easement, as well as many markings for the floodplain and creek.

One notation on the map shows that the pond and dam would need to be regraded as needed if the changes are made. This could also have bad consequences for the ecology and for animals in the region,

It would have been nice to have pictures included, or a more clear delineation of the treeline. Some pedestrians do like to walk through fields.

Due to the added expense and the lack of public input, and the lack of a clear demonstration of the public good in these changes, and due to the and the changes requested by two landowners who have already benefited from the public improvements for years, I request that these changes be denied.