

June 3, 2010

RE: Ridgeline Development

Dear Commissioners,

First and foremost I want to make it perfectly clear that I am "OPPOSED" to the proposed "ZONE CHANGE" of this open space.

However, if this proposal is allowed to continue forward to The City Council, I would like to make my concerns addressed, "IN THE RECORD", regarding trail standards, by the City of Orange / Planning Commission.

For many years I was privileged to be the chairman of the Orange Park Acres Trails Committee. During that time I worked closely with, the County of Orange / Harbors, Beaches, and Parks Department, the City of Orange / City Council, Planning Commissioners, and Trails coordinator.

I was continually impressed with the philosophy that each of these planners strived to achieve and uphold. They always made it their goal to, attain the best possible outcome for the general public. They knew what the code requirements and standards were for trail development, access, connectivity, and safety.

The other night, during the commission meeting, I heard someone from John Martin's team, of paid experts and supporters, stand up and say that they needed to be released from complying with the trail standards because, Orange Park has an eclectic trail system, that is comprised of varied trail widths throughout the community. Therefore, they should be allowed to disregard the trail standards wherever it causes a problem in their design development.

Our trail system was developed over many years. Back then we didn't have the opportunity of meeting with and requiring developers to adhere to trail standards. We have, over the years, appreciated all of the assistance from the County and City staff to development a trail system that meets all standards that have been established over the years. Standards that are uniform, and above all, safe for our community

I am hopeful that "ALL OF YOU" will also see the wisdom of your predecessors. "DURING THESE PROCEEDINGS" require the developer to uphold the City of Orange -Trail Standards that have been established.

You are the individuals who currently uphold the direction of our City. You must continue to uphold the standards that have been set, so that future commissioners will know how to continue our quest to be have a useful, attractive, and safe trail system.

Sincerely yours,
Chuck Mc Nees
Past-Chairman / Orange Park Trails Committee