

# NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

Thomas Center, Bldg A, Room 204  
302 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

July 14, 2016  
6:30 pm

## MINUTES

- I. Call to Order and roll call. The meeting was called to order by Sally Wazny at 6:30 pm.

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present
Amy Carpus	Mary Held	Sally Wazny
Grace Crummer	Rupa Lloyd	Geoff Parks
Kathy Ewel, Secretary	Krissy Olson	Alex Dyke, PRCA intern
Andrew Kratter	Jon Reiskind, Vice-chair	
Charlie Pedersen, Chair	Penny Weber	
Taylor Stein		
Leslie Straub		

- II. Agenda Approval: no vote was taken,

- III. Approval of Minutes (1 min.)

<u>Motion by:</u> Andy Kratter	<u>Seconded by:</u> Taylor Stein
<u>Moved to:</u> Approve agenda amended to show that Kathy Ewel was absent from the meeting	<u>Upon vote:</u> Unanimous

- IV. Chair Report

- a. Charlie announced that we will consider the park naming policy again at the next meeting.
- b. The NCC budget request was approved, along with those of other boards. Funds have come from general revenue.

- V. Treasurer's Report

There is no official report. The benches have been ordered.

- VI. PRCA Staff Report

- a. Update on Environmental Education

Sally Wazny, program coordinator for Environmental Education, provided a synopsis of the environmental education program. She began by describing each of the staff members and their backgrounds and strengths. Many are recent hires, including both seasonal and temporary (who may eventually become permanent), and some are part-time. They also include young people who may themselves have participated in programs as children as well as more mature professionals. Among the group programs offered, she gave special attention to the bird study conducted with Westwood Middle School, in which students learn about the scientific method and experiments right on the school campus. Taylor Stein and his students are evaluating how well the students retain the lessons they have learned. Sally hopes to expand this program to other schools and grade levels. The Earth Academy Day Camp includes emphasis on character development and the opportunity for "graduated" students to provide assistance, thereby picking up leadership skills as well as service credits. The overall

strategy is to team with related programs and partners to build critical thinking & relational skills, foster leadership, connect people with natural resources, and provide a sense of continuity in the community.

Alex Dyke demonstrated the picture frame, purchased in 2013, and now loaded up for use at Morningside, providing visitors with an idea of what is offered in city parks in general. Leslie Straub pointed out that a female cooter was misidentified as a Florida box turtle.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Policy: Park naming policy to be discussed next month
- b. PR & Awards: Meeting scheduled for next month

VIII. Liaison Reports: none

IX. Friends of Nature Parks Report

Sally Wazny reported that the last 2 meetings were cancelled. They will set a date for a special meeting when Grace will report on the Native Plant Society workshop.

X. Old Business

Information on Paving Hogtown Greenway was included in the board's package due to an anticipated concerned citizen who ultimately did not attend the meeting.

XI. New Business (5 minutes)

- a. Review and update (if necessary) Star Award form Approve as written:

<u>Motion by:</u> Amy Carpus	<u>Seconded by:</u> Andy Kratter
<u>Moved to:</u> Approve Star Award form pending date changes and addition of 2015 winners to the list.	<u>Upon vote:</u> Unanimous

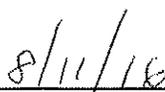
Kathy Ewel and Taylor Stein suggested that perhaps businesses outside the city but within the city/county metropolitan area could be eligible too. Amy Carpus spoke in favor of keeping the award within the city, and Leslie Straub suggested that a special NCC award of recognition could be given to a business that comes into the community and provides a benefit. Grace Crummer said we need a better way to recruit nominees.

XII. Board or Citizen Comments: none

Next Meeting, August 11, 2016

XIII. Adjournment 7:45 p.m.

  
Chair

  
Date