CITY OF GAINESVILLE
NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION
BY-LAWS

I - NAME

The name of this advisory board shall be the Nature Centers Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission."

II - PURPOSE

The general purpose of the Commission shall be to assist the Gainesville City Commission to manage designated nature centers, nature parks, greenways, and other natural areas throughout the city to preserve the native character and function of their natural systems for the enjoyment and education of the people in the community.

III - GOALS

The goals of the Commission are:

1. To provide experiences for the citizens of Gainesville and environs which nurture rapport with nature and heighten awareness, understanding and a sense of responsibility for the environment.

2. To preserve and enhance the values and integrity of the natural systems of areas under the purview of the City of Gainesville, and the Department of Recreation and Parks.

IV - DUTIES

As stated in the City Ordinance # 3088 (0-84-131)

1. Provide advice and recommendations for programs, ordinances, use regulations, and resource acquisition and management as required to protect the natural systems and other values of designated nature centers, nature parks, greenways, and other natural areas throughout the city.

2. Preparation and review of a comprehensive land use plan for designated nature centers, nature parks, greenways, and other natural areas as requested by the City Commission.

3. Support of membership, educational and other programs which will enhance funding, community support, and continuity of approved programs, activities and events.

4. Development of use fees, fund-raising campaigns, budget recommendations or other methods of augmenting public funding of selected programs, exhibits, facilities, and operations.

5. Establishment of such management policies as required to protect the natural and other values of nature centers, nature parks and greenways.

V - POLICIES

The Commission shall recommend to the City Manager such policies as they deem necessary to meet the stated general purpose, being subject to the approval by the City Manager and the City Commission.

The Commission shall make a written report to the City Commission at least once a year describing the activities of the Commission.

The Commission shall adopt an annual statement of objectives embracing both immediate and long-term concerns.

The Commission shall make periodic appointments of liaisons to other groups.

VI - MEMBERSHIP

The Commission shall be composed of 12 members, appointed by the City Commission, following its customary procedures. Friends of Morningside President will be an ex-officio voting member. Appointment is for three years with four appointments expiring on November 1st of each year. The City Commission shall fill all vacancies for unexpired terms.

Attendance to the Nature Centers Commission meetings will conform to the current City Commission Policy on attendence. Any City Commission appointee to the Nature Centers Commission is subject to removal from the board if the attendance records filed with the Clerk of the City Commission indicates that the board member has failed to meet the mimimun attendance requirements.

VII - MEETINGS

A minimum of 10 meetings each year shall be held at the discretion of the chairperson. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson with due notice to members.

A quorum shall consist of 50 percent of the current membership.

VIII – OFFICERS

Officers of the Commission shall consist of a chairperson and an assistant chairperson. The term of office shall be one year beginning after the September meeting of the Commission.

The assistant chairperson also shall be the chair-elect and shall sit for the chairperson as necessary. This person shall automatically assume the office of chairperson upon the expiration of the term of the preceding chairperson. Should the assistant chairperson be unable to assume the office of chairperson, a new chairperson shall be elected. Officers shall be elected each year at the regular September meeting.

The nominating committee shall consist of a chairperson appointed by the Commission chairperson and two members selected by the Commission at the regular August meeting. The nominations shall be presented to the Commission at the regular September meeting.

As needed from time to time and upon recommendation of the chairperson, the Commission may elect a secretary-treasurer. The term of the secretary-treasurer shall be set by the chairperson but shall not extend beyond the next regular election of officers.

IX - COMMITTEES

The chairperson shall appoint all committees except the nominating committee:

There may be standing committees for:

1. Finance
2. Public Relations
3. Policies
4. Education
5. Comprehensive Planning
6. Resource Acquisition and Management
7. Volunteer Committee
8. Other ongoing concerns

An ad hoc committee shall be appointed by the chairperson when deemed necessary by the Commission.

X - FINANCE

1. The fiscal year shall be from October 1st to September 30th.

2. The chairperson, or secretary-treasurer if one is elected, shall oversee funds and financial records maintained by or for the Commission.

3. The Commission shall approve any expenditures of funds maintained by or for the Commission.

XI - CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Robert's Rules of Order, latest revised edition, shall govern in all applicable cases unless contrary to these by-laws.

The order of business at each meeting shall be according to, but not limited to, an agenda prepared at the direction of the chairperson.

XII - ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT

These by-laws may be adopted by a vote of the Commission members present and voting at a regular meeting provided they have been distributed to each member at least 10 days prior to the day of the meeting.

These by-laws may be amended by a simple majority vote of members present and voting at a regular meeting provided that the proposed amendments have been distributed to each member at least seven days prior to the day of the meeting. The amendment can only be effective after approval by the City Commission.

XIII - DISSOLUTION

The Commission can be dissolved only by repeal of Ordinance # 3088 (0-84-131) which in part creates the Commission.