

# NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

Thomas Center, Bldg A, Basement/Kitchen  
302 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

March 12, 2015  
Thursday – 6:30PM

## MINUTES

I. Call to Order and roll call. Recognize guests

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present
Leslie Straub (PR)	David Miller, Vice Chair (Policy)	Linda Demetropoulos
Rupa Lloyd, Treasurer	Amy Carpus (Policy)	Michelle Park
Charles Pedersen, Chair (Policy)		
Jon Reiskind (PR)		
Penny Weber (PR)		
Kathy Ewel		
Taylor Stein (Policy)		

Student Savannah was present observing for a class.

II. Agenda Approval

Motion By: Jon Reiskind	Seconded By: Rupa Lloyd
Moved To: Approve agenda as submitted	Upon Vote: passed unanimously

III. Approval of Minutes  
a. February 12, 2015

Motion By: Jon Reiskind	Seconded By: Leslie Straub
Moved To: Approve minutes with edits	Upon Vote: passed unanimously

IV. PRCA Staff Report

- a. Michelle Park provided an update on PRCA Master Plan prioritization and 501C3. Ms. Park provided a copy of the letter to Trust for Public Land (TPL) and explained what TPL will be doing – conducting polls to determine feasibility research on tax increase or other plausible method for funding PRCA Master Plan priorities. She stated that TPL will raise the funds privately to fund the public opinion poll. The funding mechanism feasibility study will explore various funding options and identify the most likely accepted option. A tax initiative could be on the ballot March 2016 to fund PRCA Master Plan priorities. Board Chair Pedersen asked “What can the NCC do assist?” Ms. Park stated that the NCC could show support by coming to future City Commission meetings to support the initiative. Ms. Park said that she will share additional information at the May meeting and then the board can make a motion to support the recommended course of action.

Ms. Park also reported on the new name of the 501C3 – Gainesville Arts & Parks Foundation – GAP for short. Help us fill our GAP. Ms. Park also provided information on the purpose of the new Foundation.

b. Staff Report – Michelle Park reported that FONP and PRCA are partnering to acquire a mobile “enviro-van” – a mobile environmental education van. Linda Demetropoulos handed out the monthly staff report. She reported that she is now including information on the Environmental Education Program in the staff report. Linda D. reported on the staffing situation in EE: They have new recreation leaders for “centers”, Lindsey McConnell is now dedicated to overseeing Morningside, Brickey Way is overseeing farm operations, Nature Assistant (40 hour) is being currently advertised, Sally is transitioning to overseeing education in the centers and environmental education. Loblolly Boardwalk is completed, staff completed a 20-acre. Jon Reiskind requested numbers instead bullets on the staff report.

V. Chair Report - No report but will cover information under Policy.

VI. Treasurer’s Report – Rupa Lloyd reported on the budget. She stated that we have in our budget \$5,085.00. \$488.00 has been expended from Materials and Supplies. This may relate to the STAR award and we are researching. Editor’s note: Research revealed that \$488 was 1/3 of the catering cost of the STAR award, \$48 is anticipated for the engraved name plates, and \$120 is anticipated for the Fracture image (the photos).

VII. Committee Reports

a. Policy –

Chair Pedersen asked a question regarding “what sort of things should be brought to the NCC?” We know that we are the citizen review component for Management Plans. Are we doing an adequate job? Should we have more public outreach, public meetings, and try to reach out more and include the neighbors and public? Taylor Stein stated that outreach is a very good idea. He said when it comes to recreation goals, it is better to have more than just staff and NCC weigh in. It is important to garner public input and support. Identify who the stakeholders are and reach out. If we want to attract economic opportunities to parks we’ll have to reach out in a broader way.

Chair Pedersen asked, “What kind of liaison relationship does the NCC want to have with the new PRCA 501C3 Foundation?” Do we want to appoint a liaison to this committee? *We should discuss at the Annual Retreat.*

Leslie Straub provided the Chair with her comments on the Nuisance Wildlife policy.

Leslie Straub described the duties of the NCC as listed in the bylaws and correlating with the NCC work plan.

Leslie Straub discussed the recent rescission of the “Bird Sanctuary” ordinance in City of Gainesville. It was discussed that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has the authority to designate areas as bird sanctuaries and the City’s ordinance was in violation of state law. That is why the City repealed the Bird Sanctuary ordinance. Leslie recommended the Policy Committee review the ordinance.

- b. PR & Awards (Environmental Education) – Leslie Straub handed out a draft document for projects, a timeline, responsible parties, and related budget. Chair Pedersen proposed that the PR & Awards committee have a mechanism whereby other board members can help with large projects and establish time lines in order to keep projects on time and on track.

The PR & Awards Committee proposed a meeting on April 2 at 5:00 pm to look at Morningside and determine needed amenities/upgrades. Linda D. said that would be a public meeting and would need to be publicly noticed. Linda D. will check with Sally and her staff to determine their availability. We need at least two weeks for public notice.

- c. Nominations – None.

VIII. Friends of Nature Parks Report - No report. FONP held their annual meeting recently.

IX. Liaison Reports

- a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Board (Vacant) – None.
- b. Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board (Taylor Stein) No report.
- c. Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee (David Miller) No report.

X. Old Business – table discussion of Nuisance Wildlife Policy for future meeting.

XI. New Business

- a. Review proposed updated conservation land acquisition list – Linda D. explained the changes to the new conservation land acquisition list, now in an Excel spreadsheet instead of Word table, adding color for ease of reading, new columns with more information.

<u>Motion By:</u> Jon Reiskind	<u>Seconded By:</u> Rupa Lloyd
<u>Moved To:</u> Approve the new conservation land acquisition list and maps	<u>Upon Vote:</u> passed unanimously

Discussion related to the purpose of the list is to enable staff to begin negotiations (just the beginning of the process) but does not commit either the City or the seller to anything and does not mean that negotiation will necessarily lead to successful acquisition of the parcel. Rupa Lloyd supported staff’s addition of the zoning designation column, color coding, and “contingent upon” column. Staff will keep the NCC updated on any pending conservation land acquisition negotiations.

- b. Finalize plans/location for April board retreat – April retreat will be held in Thomas Center A in the basement/kitchen.

XII. Board or Citizen Comments

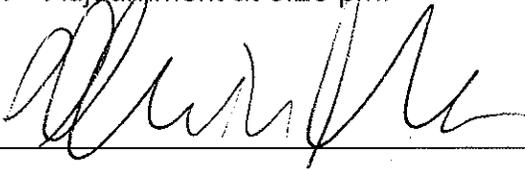
Leslie Straub reported that she had a conversation with Susan Bottcher, former City Commissioner, who said she was ready to vote YES to sell off five acres of Loblolly to a neighbor until she received a letter from the Nature Centers Commission opposing the sale. The letter had an impact.

XIII. Next Meeting

a. April 9, 2015 (Annual Retreat)

XIV. Adjournment at 8:25 pm.

Chair



Date

6-25-2015