

# NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

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

November 12, 2015  
Thursday – 5:35 PM

## Minutes

I. Call to Order and roll call.

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present
Amy Carpus	Rupa Lloyd, Treasurer	Linda Demetropoulos
Grace Crummer	Taylor Stein (POL)	
Kathy Ewel, Secretary	Penny Weber (PR)	
Jon Reiskind, Vice-Chair (PR)	Charlie Pederson, Chair	<b>Guests Present</b>
Leslie Straub (PR)		Morgan Murphy, UF student

Morgan Murphy is a UF student attending as part of an assignment for a class: Environmental and Land Use Planning in the Urban and Regional Planning Dept.

II. Agenda Approval

<u>Motion by:</u> Kathy Ewel	<u>Seconded by:</u> Amy Carpus
<u>Moved to:</u> Approve agenda	<u>Upon vote:</u> Passed unanimously

III. Approval of Minutes of October 8, 2015

<u>Motion by:</u> Amy Carpus	<u>Seconded by:</u> Grace Crummer
<u>Moved to:</u> Approve minutes	<u>Upon vote:</u> Passed unanimously

IV. Chair Report: none

V. Treasurer's Report

Linda Demetropoulos reported that nothing has been spent from the FY 16 budget yet. In error, \$1,000 was taken from this year's budget for last year's grant match for the Historic Small Matching Grant. Budget and Finance staff assured Linda that it will be corrected. The current FY 16 budget shows a balance of \$4,573.

VI. PRCA Staff Report, attached.

Regarding item 11, Linda D. explained that Dr. Barrow complained of overgrown vegetation on the side of Sweetwater Branch adjacent to the Matheson Museum and County Library. CRA and Public Works are now assessing the entire stretch of the creek for potential improvements. Spraying with herbicide would not be satisfactory as stabilization must be assured.

Jon Reiskind asked about the lack of hits for the trail counters; Linda replied that the staff had just installed the new locations for the start of the fiscal year.

Amy Carpus asked about the Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting on Oct. 14 (CDC: Carter and Wells). The committee requested that Arborist will go back to the committee on Dec. 2 to provide additional information on the allowable use of tree mitigation funds and why there is a difference in mitigation fees for residential vs. commercial payments.

Amy responded that it has to do in part with creation of impervious surfaces. Also, smaller trees will be planted at Depot Park than originally planned in order to save some money.

Leslie Straub reported that the mesh used in the sod stabilization at Sweetwater Wetlands Park is being exposed causing hazards for wildlife. Grebes are getting caught in mesh that ends up in the water, and a Great Egret has been seen with mesh around its beak. Leslie stated that she has talked to staff about it. Volunteer cleanups have been held to remove the loose mesh, and staff will meet again tomorrow regarding further actions. Alice Rankeillor (project manager for Sweetwater issues at GRU) has agreed to develop long-term plan, as there are 3.5 miles of trails using this material; Leslie will talk with chemists at Cade Museum about possible alternatives to plastic mesh for sod.

a. Committee Reports: none. The PR & Awards Committee (Leslie, Penny, and Jon) will meet in December.

VII. Liaison Reports: none.

VIII. Friends of Nature Parks Report: none

IX. Old Business

a. Star Award: There are three nominations – one in each category. Possible additional nominations were discussed. The board does not vote until December so there is still time to consider additional nominations.

b. The fee policy for Sweetwater Wetlands Park was approved. Groups requesting Ranger led tours or other group visits can contact Linda or Geoff.

I. New Business: none

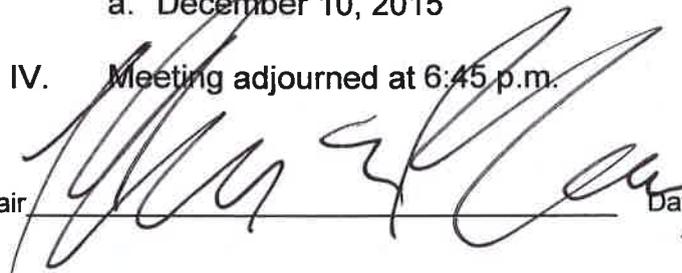
II. Board or Citizen Comments: none

III. Next Meeting

a. December 10, 2015

IV. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Chair



Date

12/10/15