

NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

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

June 11, 2015
Thursday – 6:30PM

MINUTES

I. Call to Order and roll call.

| Members Present | Members Absent | Staff Present | Guests |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Grace Crummer | Kathy Ewel, Secretary | Linda Demetropoulos | Becky Cuumba in for Penny Weber, Friends of Nature Parks |
| Rupa Lloyd, Treasurer | David Miller, Vice Chair (Policy) | | Sean and Landon, UF students |
| Charles Pedersen, Chair (Policy) | Penny Weber (PR) | | |
| Jon Reiskind (PR) | Amy Carpus (Policy) | | |
| Taylor Stein (Policy) | | | |
| Leslie Straub (PR) | | | |

II. Agenda Approval

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| Motion By: Jon Reiskind | Seconded by: Taylor Stein |
| Moved To: Approve agenda as submitted | Upon vote: Passed unanimously |

III. Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2015

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| Motion By: Taylor Stein | Seconded by: Leslie Straub |
| Moved To: Approve agenda as submitted | Upon vote: Passed unanimously |

IV. Chair Report: Charlie Pedersen presented the Chair report. He stated that he will not be able to attend the July meeting.

V. Treasurer's Report: Linda Demetropoulos reported that there is an available balance of \$4,732 remaining.

VI. PRCA Staff Report: Linda Demetropoulos handed out the monthly staff report. Sweetwater Wetlands Park grand opening is June 12, 2015. All board members were invited to the event. A proposed budget increment is moving forward to have the park open 7 days/wk in FY 2016. Seasonal passes are now for sale. It costs \$25 for June-September, 2015. Revenues go into the general fund. Taylor asked what the Rangers are doing. Linda stated that they are developing regular guided tours and currently enforcing the rules. Leslie Straub reported on baby Alligators getting stuck in mesh netting. GRU agreed to remove the construction netting. Google Maps may provide people with the wrong address but City staff are working to correct that.

Cofrin Nature Park is closed and creek stabilization is under way. The Cofrin house will be removed. It has been surveyed and determined asbestos is present. A memo went to the City Commission advising them of the house removal. Ms. Gladys Cofrin stated that she approved of the house demolition.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Policy: Met at 6pm. Report Charlie/Taylor.
 - o Discussed creek water quality: Reviewed staff plan to do more public education, close spur trails, develop more signage, monitor compliance, staff will continue to flesh out plan and bring back to the committee in the future.
 - o Nuisance Wildlife Policy: The committee made a few additional grammatical changes. We will review with the board under old business. Leslie asked for the addition of an appendix with contact phone numbers.
- b. PR & Awards – Storyboard Update: PR and Awards Committee will meet in July. Will be working on the large display. Leslie will send something in an email prior to the meeting.
- c. Nominations – None.

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Board (Vacant) No report
- b. Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board (Taylor Stein) No report
- c. Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee (David Miller) No report.

Linda D. shared the City Commission committee staff assignments. Currently Wells and Warren are assigned to RCAPW.

- IX. Friends of Nature Parks Report: Report by Becky Cuumba. Earth Academy Day Camp has begun. Friends have provided scholarships for six of the one-week sessions. There are 23 children currently attending.

X. New Business

- a. Dignity Village relationship to Morningside Nature Center (Penny Weber) Becky Cuumba is in for Penny Weber. FONP have concerns related to Dignity Village residents entering Morningside Nature Center after hours. Linda D. reported that citizens must respect park hours and GPD can be called if people are found to be in the park after hours. Nature Park boundaries are posted. GPD can be called if illegal campers are found in Morningside. We do desire to connect a trail from Morningside to the State Forest land in the future but at present no trail connection exists. Currently there is no legitimate trail access from the State Forest land to Morningside. Charlie reported that a management plan will be developed for Newnan's Lake State Forest which will tentatively be available in the Fall which will address access to Morningside, and issues related to Dignity Village. The public will be encouraged to comment and the NCC can comment at that time. Recreation in the State Forest should be coordinated with Morningside to make sure uses are compatible. Dignity Village is located approximately 1 ½ miles from Morningside with State Forest property in between. Becky Cuumba stated that FONP would like

to see a post or fence on the north boundary with signage or more staff monitoring the north boundary of Morningside. Taylor Stein stated that if Dignity Village were to expand they would likely expand into the State Forest first. The board recommends that staff monitor for issues or problems and work with the State Forest to coordinate the access point. There was acknowledgement that the Morningside Nature Center Management Plan needs to be updated and should address the new Morningside Additions and any new access points.

- XI. Old Business
 - a. Nuisance Wildlife Policy -

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| <u>Motion By:</u> Jon Reiskind | <u>Seconded by:</u> Leslie Straub |
| <u>Moved To:</u> Approve Nuisance Wildlife Policy with the addition of an appendix that includes contact phone numbers and additional grammatical errors and typos corrected. | <u>Upon vote:</u> Passed unanimously |

Leslie will check on regulations related to hunting coyotes.

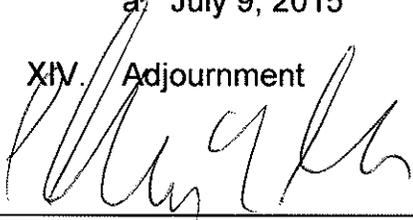
- XII. Board or Citizen Comments – Students present state that they may be interested or know someone who is interested in a student NCC position. No specific expertise is required and residency is not required.

- XIII. Next Meeting
 - a. July 9, 2015

- XIV. Adjournment

Chair Signature

Date



8-13-2015