NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION
Annual Retreat

Thomas Center Bldg A, Room 204
302 NE 6th Avenue

April 10, 2014
Thursday – 6:00PM

Minutes

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present
Amy Carpus		Linda Demetropoulos
Rupa Lloyd		
David Miller, Chair		
Charles Pedersen, V. Chair		
Kate Preston, Sec/Treasurer		
Suzanne Skadowski		
Jon Reiskind		
Taylor Stein		
Leslie Straub		

I. Call to Order and recognition of guests – at 6:05pm

- The following students from Taylor Stein's UF classes are there to present an action plan to the NCC Board:
- Kristin Buckingham, Kimberly Chaney, Stefanny Houghton, Kira Krall, Quinton Lusk, Aryianna Macrellis, and Michael Stone

II. Agenda Approval

Motion By: Jon Reiskind	Seconded By: Suzanne Skadowski
Moved To: Adopt the agenda as submitted	Upon Vote: passed 9-0

III. UF Student Presentation, recreation planning for Palm Point Nature Park

- Several of Taylor Stein's UF students, as listed above, presented an action plan for Palm Park Nature Park. The following five goals of the action plan were presented and discussed.
    - Provide experiences of freshwater ecosystems for appreciation and enjoyment
    - Protect and restore habitats
    - Improve economic opportunities for local businesses
    - Provide educational opportunities on unique natural and cultural resources
    - Increase the sense of pride and community ownership
- The students also presented some existing constraints involved with the nature park such as residential encroachment, archeological protection, and road crossings for safe park and shoreline access.
- The students took all the comments from the NCC Board and will work on the draft for the next few weeks and bring back a written plan.

IV. FY 2014 Work Plan Accomplishments - The Annual Work Plan and following year's goals were discussed amongst the NCC Board. The following page reflects the updates to the Annual Work Plan

V. Adjournment -7:44pm

David Miller

City of Gainesville
Advisory Board/Committee Workplan

Nature Centers Commission

FY 2013-2014 through FY 2014-2015 WORKPLAN PROJECTS

Project Title ***Status***

2013/2014-2014/2015 Workplan

2013/2014 FY Accomplishments:

1) Approved Bivens Arm and Cofrin Nature Park Management Plans.
2) Updated and revised Star Award process and awarded the 2013 Star Awards to six nominees.
3) Composed and issued a position letter in regards to the purchase of City conservation land by a private landowner living adjacent to Loblolly Woods Nature Park.
4) Remained in contact with Friends of Nature Parks and was periodically briefed on their public outreach and fundraising activities. A representative of FNOP has been actively participating in NCC meetings.
5) NCC Board Chair accepted the National Park and Recreation Month Proclamation at City Commission.
6) Maintained liaisons from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Board, ROSCO and RCAPW Committee.
7) Reviewed Boulware Springs Restoration Project Plan.
8) Reviewed draft of Recreation Action Plan for Palm Point Nature Park drafted by Taylor Stein and UF/FRC students.
9) Continued to create/update educational display.
10) Continued to monitor trail counters at multiple locations in City nature parks.
11) Received updates from Stefan Broadus with City of Gainesville Public Works on bicycle path construction and Depot area development
12) Reviewed potential acquisition of parcel adjacent to Colclough Pond Nature Park.
13) New review of Paynes Prairie Sheet Flow Project.
14) Celebrated with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department on their CAPRA accreditation.
15) Reviewed Park Naming Policy.

Ongoing Projects:

1) Advocate and promote family/parent-child participation and visitation to nature parks and programs. NCC members will work with university students to evaluate current/historic participation in parks/programs through trail counters, surveys, and program data.
2) Enhance, track and monitor storyboard presentations. Update and create/use scheduled locations for the large display (1/month, Board members to assist). Plan for the small table-top display to be staffed at smaller events/locations by Board members.
3) Change the focus of advertising to use "It Starts in Parks" slogan to promote visitation to nature parks and programs. Pursue the development of radio commercials, PSAs, newspaper, posters and other advertising. Develop outlines for parks shorts. Pursue cooperative efforts with Channel 12, UF student Channel 6, Santa Fe and possibly PBS.
4) Work with staff to facilitate appropriate access to the City's nature parks and conservation areas. This task will be addressed on an as needed basis during regular meetings.
5) Continue committee to develop policies and review for appropriate types and levels of use for nature parks. This task will be addressed on an as needed basis during regular meetings.
6) Continue supporting Friends of Nature Parks activities.
7) Continue to review and approve land management plans as needed.

8) Continue making recommendations on grant applications and acquisitions for Alachua County Forever, Florida Communities Trust, and City of Gainesville acquisition funds.
9) Maintain liaisons with other citizen committees and advisory boards such as Bicycle/Pedestrian Board, ROSCO, Public Recreation and Park Board, Friends of Nature Parks and Recreation, Cultural Affairs and Public Works Committee, and Florida Forrest Service.
10) Review City Codes and policies pertaining to parks and conservation lands.
11) Work with staff on Recreation Master Plan implementation.
12) Work with City staff to explore non-profit 501C3 to obtain PRCA department-wide funding.
13) Maintain subcommittee to address recreation, management, and utilization plans aided by local college students.

Yearly Projects:

1) Coordinate and implement the annual Star Awards program and continue to reach out to non-profit organizations and use the award process to solicit volunteers. Review applicants and present Star Awards to accepted nominees.
2) Assist staff in creating opportunities for physical fitness for the health and well-being of Gainesville citizens.
3) Assist staff in determining appropriate private business/for-profit uses at nature parks.

OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

Date of Referral	***Referral Description***	***Status***
	NONE	

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Kate Preston, Sec/Treasurer		
Jon Reiskind		
Suzanne Skadowski		
Taylor Stein		
Leslie Straub		

I. Call to Order – at 7:45pm

II. Agenda Approval

Motion By: Jon Reiskind	Seconded By: Taylor Stein
Moved To: Adopt the agenda as submitted	Upon Vote: passed 9-0

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion By: Charles Pedersen	Seconded By: Suzanne Skadowski
Moved To: Adopt the March minutes as submitted	Upon Vote: passed 9-0

IV. Chair Report – David Miller, the Chair of the PRCA, and Steve Phillips met regarding revisions to the Park Naming Policy. The NCC Board was provided a copy of the proposed revisions and the Board will review at next month's meeting.

- Discussed that the statement in the March minutes regarding the renaming of a park in honor of Jack Hughes will be NCC Board's official position and that the Chair will use it to draft a letter on the issue.

Motion By: Leslie Straub	Seconded By: Amy Carpus
Moved To: Use the statement in the March minutes as the official position of the NCC Board on the Jack Hughes proposal. The Chair will draft a letter with this statement to present to the Commission.	Upon Vote: passed 9-0

V. Treasurer's Report – Kate Preston presented the Treasurer's Report stating expenditures of $231 and that there is $7,318 available.

VI. Committee Reports

- **Policy** – Appropriate Use Committee did not meet this month but will meet at 6:00pm on May 8, 2014
- **PR & Awards** –
  - **Storyboard update** – Leslie Straub reported that they are collecting photos and taking some new photos for the storyboard.

- **Nominations** - No report

VII. PRCA Staff Report –

- Linda Demetropoulos presented a damage assessment for review from Split Rock Looting incident. The damage is estimated at $30,000.
- Leslie Straub requested that a separate EE report and also the Recreation Division Report. Linda D. will work on getting the Recreation Division report.

VIII. Friends of Nature Parks Report – No report

IX. Liaison Reports

- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Board (Suzanne Skadowski)** – Discussed uses of transportation sales tax and Boulware Springs and Newnan's Lake bike trails.
- **Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board (Taylor Stein)**- No report
- **Recreation, Cultural Affairs, and Public Works Committee (David Miller)** – No report

X. Old Business – No old business

XI. New Business-

- **Approval of the New Work Plan and Budget**

Motion By: Leslie Straub	Seconded By: Jon Reiskind
Moved To: Approve the Work Plan and Budget	Upon Vote: passed 9-0

XII. Board or Citizen Comments – Amy Carpus advised that the Keep America Beautiful was coming up this following weekend and the Farm and Forrest Festival is on April 19, 2014.

XIII. Next Meeting – May 8, 2014, Thomas Center A, Room 204, 6:30pm

XIV. Adjournment – 8:19pm

Chair

5/8/2014
Date