

NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

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

March 12, 2020
6:30 pm

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and roll call. Recognize new member and guests (5 min.)
- II. Agenda Approval (1 min.)
- III. Approval of Minutes (1 min.)
 - a. February 13, 2020
- IV. Chair Report (5 min.)
- V. Treasurer's Report (1 min.)
- VI. PRCA Staff Report (5 min.)
- VII. Committee Reports (5 min.)
 - a. Policy
 - b. PR & Awards
- VIII. Liaison Reports (5 min.)
 - a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Board (Matt)
 - b. Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board (Cindy)
 - c. WSPP Oversight Committee and PRCA WSPP working group (Amy)
- IX. Friends of Nature Parks Report (Penny Weber) (5 min.)
- X. Old Business (15 min.)
 - a. Sign comments update
 - b. Expenditures/"wish list" items
 - c. Advertising Star Awards and nature parks PSA's
- XI. New Business (5 min.)
 - a. Plan Annual Retreat
- XII. Board or Citizen Comments (5 min.)
- XIII. Adjournment

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in the meeting are requested to notify the Equal Opportunity Department at 334-5051 (TDD 334-2069) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date.

NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

Thomas Center, Bldg. A, Room 204
302 NE 6th Ave

February 13, 2020
6:30 pm

MINUTES

I. Call to Order at 6:34 PM and roll call.

Members Present	Members Absent	Guests	Staff Present
Grace Crummer, Chair	Matthew Audette, Treasurer	Nancy	Linda Demetropoulos
Jon Reiskind, Vice-Chair	Amy Carpus		
Shaun Jensen, Secretary	Penny Weber		
Cindy Boulware	Jessica Wilson		
Hannah Gutner, Student Seat			
Bruce Blackwell			
Marilyn Prado			
Nicole Dodds			
Leslie Straub			

The current members introduced themselves to the guest and new member, Marilyn. One guest, Nancy, was present.

The newest NCC Member, Marilyn Prado, introduced themselves as a member of the Fitness Council and Junior League. She has a Master's degree in history; specifically cultural history and pre-Columbian history. She has an interest in preserving the historical element in Gainesville.

Poems in the Parks was discussed before moving on to the Agenda Approval.

II. Agenda Approval

<u>Motion by:</u> Jon Reiskind	<u>Seconded by:</u> CJ Boulware
<u>Moved to:</u> Approve agenda	<u>Upon vote:</u> Unanimous

III. Approval of Minutes.

a. January 9, 2020

<u>Motion by:</u> Bruce Blackwell	<u>Seconded by:</u> CJ Boulware
<u>Moved to:</u> Approve agenda, saying Jessica was not present, but absent.	<u>Upon vote:</u> Unanimous

IV. Chair Report

Grace Crummer had a conversation with Steve Phillips:

1. The City wants to rename JJ Finley Park, whose namesake was a Confederate general. The Recreation Board will have final say. The NCC is encouraged to share any ideas.
2. There was a reorganization to who the Parks Dept. reports (New Assistant City Manager Deborah Bowie). The NCC has nothing to be concerned about.
3. Park naming policy- specifically who is still alive. Suggest language to change this? Jon -Does our commission sign off on that? We will. Bill Burger- Chair Recreation.

V. Treasurer Report

Matthew Audette was absent. Linda contributed to the report. Facebook ads hit. \$50. Then the laminator and chairs have been ordered, have not hit yet. \$5,523 dollars available. Wish lists for next meeting. Suggestions.

VI. PRCA Report

Linda spoke on her written report.

1. Chapter 18 in the City ordinances has been updated. Mostly updates park names. Updated prohibited items/actions. No swimming or water access. No littering is official.
2. Hogtown Creek Headwaters Park nature center. Go see renovations. (There is still a fence around it). Really good looking.
3. Grace- Dept. Juvenile Justice Work Day (x2) - Adopted Bivens Arm Nature Park. They come and invasive removal. Clean various locations. Pick up trash. Help paint needed items. Odd jobs- keep them nice. At risk youth, educational and special instead of just working. Teenagers.
4. Cora Roberson park, named after a living person was formerly stormwater park. The signs will be changed. First park to have the new designs.
5. Facilities Management is now part of Parks Department.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Policy: No report
- b. PR & Awards: No report

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. Bicycle: Matthew Audette not present
- b. Recreation: CJ contacted and got the meeting minutes online, no luck. Jay has left her position. 7 openings OPEN. Camp McConnell. 441 toward Micanopy near Lake Wauburg. 211 acres. Former YMCA property, were aggressively expanding. Alachua County bought it, and bid it off to Friendship Circle- camps and experiences to have people with disabilities. They turned it back to County. Renovate. Explore future uses. Gina Peebles, Asst. County Manager, can be emailed.
- c. WSPP Oversight: Amy Carpus not present.

IX. Friends of Nature Parks Report
Penny Weber not present.

X. Old Business

- a. The NCC-requested letter update: Penny took it to City Manager, walked it through him. Now they want to show example slides of proposed changes. Don't want the tall signs with a large map. Simple vs complex trails. (Cofrin vs Morningside for instance). What do we want?
- b. A Slide show was presented
 1. Maps in all kiosks.
 2. Use new design and color scheme.
 3. Goal is to be completely informative while being unobtrusive to park.
 4. Sign posts 4x4 4 feet tall, graphical simple. Well liked.

<u>Motion by:</u> Leslie Straub	<u>Seconded by:</u> CJ Boulware
<u>Moved to:</u> Accept and Endorse the presentation as representative of the NCC's sentiments for changes to the Wayfinding Standards. Authorize Penny to present it City Manager.	<u>Upon vote:</u> Unanimous

<u>Motion by:</u> Leslie Straub	<u>Seconded by:</u> CJ Boulware
<u>Moved to:</u> Authorize Penny to present it City Staff and City Commission. Grace to Chair Meeting.	<u>Upon vote:</u> Unanimous

- c. Star Awards: Everything in process, March 5th, starts at 6 o clock. 2 awardees are confirmed.
- d. Advertising from Star Awards and Nature Parks. Leslie sent her recommendations. New Ads were approved. Nature sounds or tune for the background. Matthew needs to present next meeting, and he is the Treasurer. Carry over the theme. Suggestions by NCC members were, "crunch leaves", "bird", "water", end is the "hawk" or "crane". Bird sound collection.

XI. New Business

Grace- miss Charles. Sweetwater Park meet-up planned for March 1st @ 3pm. It will have to be formally publicly noticed.

XII. Board or Citizen Comments

Bruce- says the city arborist Brian Watson resigned. Gainesville is being honored as a Tree City of the World for the first time. There are only 23 others in the US.

Jon- state, tree ordinance.

Geoff Parks will fill in as liaison next month.

Environmental Ed, should come to us for an update.

Hannah- Office of Sustainability, wants to help with an event.

XIII. Adjournment
7:48 PM

Chair

Date