

NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

Thomas Center, Bldg A, Long Gallery
302 NE 6th Ave

May 13, 2021
6:30PM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and roll call. Recognize guests (5 min.)
- II. Agenda Approval (1 min.)
- III. Approval of Minutes (1 min.)
 - a. March 15, 2021
 - b. April 8, 2021
- 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 (10 min.)
 - a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Board (Leanne)
 - b. Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board (Karen)
 - c. WSPP Working Group (Penny, Michael)
- IX. Friends of Nature Parks Report (Penny) (5 min.)
- X. Old Business (15 min.)
 - a. Expenditures/"wish list" items
- XI. New Business (15 min.)
 - a. Plan Annual Retreat (review and update work plan)
- XII. Board or Citizen Comments (5 min.)
- XIII. Adjournment

Next meeting, June 10, 2021

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

Workshop Via Zoom

April 8, 2021

MINUTES

Call to Order at 6:02
p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present
Bruce Blackwell	Karen Garren	Linda Demetropoulos
Jessica Wilson, Treasurer		
Cindy J. Boulware		
Leslie Straub PR		
Michael J. Hill		
Penny Weber		
Jon Reiskind Chair		
Grace Crummer Vice Chair		
Leanne Sheffer		
Marilyn Prado		

II. Chair Report: Jon Reiskind

Introductions of previous Board Members to new member, Leanne Sheffer. Discussion and information regarding Roxy Gonzales being named as the new interim Director (PRCA). Mention of the Loblolly Boardwalk being redocked using a composite decking called Weardeck and funded by the Wild Spaces and Public Places. Electric Vehicles being considered for the future at Sweetwater Wetlands Park. Work currently taking place enhance Alfred Ring Park; including gazebo benches, signage, repairing washouts and preventing backflow. . Group discussion of the necessity of SWNP as being a "paid" venue.

Liaison's note: The Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center (Formerly Harman House) is not currently open to the public or ready to host meetings.

III. Treasurer's Report; Jessica Wilson \$5,523.00 Balance remains, \$50.00 spent on new Board member's books.

IV. Staff Report (Linda Demetropoulos) Staff resignation pending: Geoff Parks is going to Florida Natural Areas Inventory, leaving late April after 18 years of service. The job controls over 3,200 acres of park lands, covering animals, plants, fire, restorations and maintenance. The replacement process is to put in a request, advertise the position for 2 weeks minimum, and begin interviews. Also looking for a full time Park Ranger, 1/2 time Nature Assistant, 1/2 time Recreational leader, and a HCHW Nature Assistant. There have been over 200 applicants for the full time park ranger position, the quality of which are very strong. The maintenance personnel have been busy with pressure washing, table and deck repairs, etc.

The Zipline breaking down has been a reoccurring problem. Barnyard Buddies will resume in April, and go through May- 3:00 on Wednesdays. Extra Staff has been brought in for help at Sweetwater on the weekends due to higher than usual volume of visitors. PRCA has been participating with the Forest Service, Kids in Parks and others on "Track trails" for 3 nature Parks which is a kiosk of information geared for children hiking the trails.

Earth Academy Day camp registration opens April 19th.

V. Committee Reports – Liaisons did not have any reports.

VI. Friends of Nature Parks Reports (Penny) Meeting upcoming, Discussion of planning underway for Plant sale in the Fall.

VII. New business

- a. Wish list items: Regarding the flat screen TV for the multi-purpose classroom- There was a request to go back and amend the March minutes to show that the TV was approved for purchase at this meeting. Penny will donate binoculars. There was an additional request to add Sweetwater Wetlands Park trail maps to the "wish list."
- b. Plan Annual Retreat: There was a discussion concerning an annual retreat taking place in May or June. There was also discussion of facilitating a

public survey regarding the nature parks. Linda asked the Board if they want her to send out the recent Hogtown Headwaters Nature Park Public needs assessment survey and focus group reports.

Board or Citizen's Comments:

Michael Hill brought up the Power District redevelopment plan.

Michael Hill brought up the Tree Advisory Board's proposed consideration of a land acquisition on an upcoming Tree Advisory Board agenda.

There was a request for Linda to see if the Board can return to meeting in the Thomas Center.

Adjournment: 7:55 P.M.

chairman

NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

City Hall Auditorium

March 15th 2021

6:35 pm

MINUTES

I. Call to Order at (6:35)

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present
Bruce Blackwell via Zoom	Leslie Staub	Linda Demetropoulos
Leanne Sheffer	Grace Crummer	
Cindy J. Boulware	Jessica Wilson	
Karen Garren	Marilyn Prado	
Michael J. Hill		
Penny Weber		
Jon Reiskind		

Introduction of new member, Leanne Sheffer: Botany major at UF, From Plantation FL.

II. Agenda Approval - No additions to agenda previously approved

Motion by: Penny Weber	Seconded by: Michael Hill
Moved to: Approve agenda	Upon vote: Unanimous

III. Approval of Minutes From October, 2020

Motion by: Mike Hill	Seconded by: CJ Boulware
Moved to Approve Agenda	Upon Vote: Unanimous

Approval of minutes From December, 2020

Motion by Penny Weber Seconded by Mike Hill Upon Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes From January, 2021 Motion by Mike Hill
Seconded by CJ Boulware, Upon Vote: Unanimous

- IV. Chair Report Jon Reiskind presented a letter he had written on behalf of the NCC intended for U.F. Board of Trustees regarding the decision to allow construction and paving of the McCarty Woods tract on campus. Board members were sent a copy of the letter for editing. Update: Construction was put off the table by UF Administration due to letters from Gainesville residents and a student petition of over 1,500. Jon Reiskind also began discussion regarding our future meeting venues, perhaps an in-person quarterly meeting and the remaining ones being via Zoom.

- V. Treasurer's Report \$5,573.00 Balance remains

- VI. PRCA Staff Report: Linda Demetropoulos reported that Steve Phillips has retired as Director of PRCA, and Roxanna Gonzales has been named Interim Director. The "Invader Raider Rally" held Feb. 19-22 Was a strong success. Day Camp updates for the summer were provided by Linda D.
- VII. Committee Reports The policy committee met 3/4/21 to modify recommendations from the NCC to the City Commission. Said modifications were unanimously adopted by the NCC.
- VIII. Liaison Reports Board members volunteered to provide liaison reports.
- a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Board Leanne Sheffer
 - b. Recreation and Open Spaces Advisory Board Karen Garren
 - c. PRCA WSPP Working Group Penny Weber & Mike Hill
- IX. Friends of Nature Parks Reports (Penny) Penny reports that a very successful membership drive for Friends of Nature Parks was held Friday 3/12/21 at Cypress & Grove.
- X. Old business – None
- XI. New Business Discussion of considerations/ideas of how to honor Amy Carpus. Suggestions range from naming a trail at Morningside in her honor, to perhaps another community Award bearing her name and her exemplary passion for conservation and public outreach. Discussions will continue to be active in future meetings.

Next Meeting Thursday April 8th

- XII. Adjournment
8:20 p.m.

Cindy J. Boulware

Chair

Date

Nature Centers Commission**2021 Meeting Schedule**

Updated November, 2020

(This would have been the "typical" schedule prior to the pandemic)**2021**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Business Item</u>
January	14	Regular Meeting	Staff to submit Star Award proclamation
February	11	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	Review policies and provide feedback/changes if necessary (This is for PRCA accreditation)
March	11	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	Plan Annual Retreat
March		Community Excellence Awards (Star Awards) not occurring in 2021	
April	8	Annual Retreat Thomas Center A, 204	Review and Update Work Plan
May	13	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	Approve Annual Work Plan
June	10	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	
July	8	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	Advertise the Star Awards on August 1st. Update award form if necessary.
July	?	Proclamation	Parks and Recreation Month, 5:30 pm, City Hall
August	12	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	Form Nomination Committee (3 people)
September	9	Nominations Committee	Select slate of Officers
September	9	Regular Meeting	Elect FY21 Officers
October	14	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	Select Star Award photograph Term renewals due before November 1st – see roster
November	11	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	Star Award nominees due
December	9	PR and Awards Committee, 6 pm	Star Award Nominees
December	9	Regular Meeting Thomas Center A, 204	Review and Vote on Star Award Nominees

(12-members; 3-year terms) City Residency NOT Required.

The Nature Centers Commission (NCC) assists the City Commission through recommendations and advice given in respect to developing programs, ordinances, use regulations and resource management policies as required to protect the natural system and other values to the Nature Centers of the City of Gainesville.

The NCC was created by Ordinance 2062 (07/21/75); amended by Ordinances 2592 (04/27/81) and 3088 (12/17/84).

NCC Roster, February, 2021:

1. Blackwell, Bruce, term to expire 11/1/2022
2. Boulware, Cindy, term to expire 11/1/2022
3. Crummer, Kathryn "Grace", term to expire 11/1/2021
4. Garren, Karen, term to expire 11/1/2023
5. Hill, Michael, term to expire 11/1/2023
6. Prado, Marylin, term to expire 11/1/2022
7. Reiskind, Jon, term to expire 11/1/2022
8. Sheffer, Leanne, term to expire on 11/1/2022
9. Straub, Leslie E, term to expire 11/1/2021
10. Weber, Penny, term to expire 11/1/2023
11. Wilson, Jessica, term to expire 11/1/2022

NAME: Nature Centers Commission

ATTENDANCE ROSTER: JANUARY 1, 2021 through DECEMBER 31, 2021

Forward to: youngsr@cityofgainesville.org

Advisory Board / 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W* <input type="checkbox"/> S	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W* <input type="checkbox"/> S	1/14	2/11	3/15	4/8	5/13	6/10	7/8	8/12	9/9	10/14	11/11	12/9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S
▼ NAME OF MEMBER ▼																			
Blackwell, Bruce (PR & Awards)	P		P	P	P	P	P												
Boulware, Cindy Secretary (Policy)	P		A	P	P	P	P												
Crummer, Kathryn Grace, Vice Chair (Policy)	P		A	A	A	A	P												
Garren, Karen (PR & Awards)	P		P	P	P	P	A												
Hill, Michael J. (Policy)	P		P	P	P	P	P												
Prado, Marylin (PR & Awards)	P		P	A	A	A	P												
Reiskind, Jon, Chair (Policy)	P		P	P	P	P	P												
Sheffer, Leanne	-		-	P	P	P	P												
Straub, Leslie (PR & Awards)	A		P	A	A	A	P												
Weber, Penny, FONP Representative (PR & Awards)	P		P	P	P	P	P												
Wilson, Jessica, Treasurer (Policy)	P		A	A	A	A	P												

KEY: A = ABSENT
P = PRESENT

C = MEETING CANCELLED
Q = CANCELLED FOR LACK OF QUOREM (take attendance)
R = RESIGNED/REMOVED
E = EXPIRED TERM
* = Virtual meeting
W=Workshop

Prepared by: _Linda Demetropoulos /

Authorized by: Linda Demetropoulos /
(Liaison)

Prepared by: Clerk's Office/efj