

NATURE CENTERS COMMISSION

City Hall Basement, Room 16
200 East University Avenue

August 12, 2021
6:30 PM

MINUTES

I. Call to Order 6:30 pm

Members present	Members absent	Staff
Blackwell, Bruce	Prado, Marylin	Demetropoulos, Linda
Boulware, Cindy Sec.	Reiskind, Jon	
Campbell, Madilena		
Crummer, Grace Vice Chair		
Garren, Karen		
Hill, Michael		
Sheffer, Leanne		
Straub, Leslie		
Weber, Penny		
Wilson, Jessica Treasurer		

Recognize guest: Rae Hafer of GRU

II. Agenda Approval with the motion to move Star Award discussion to first item.

Motion by: Michael Hill	Seconded by: Bruce Blackwell
Moved to: Approve the agenda	Upon vote: Unanimous approval

III. Approval of Minutes, June 10, 2021

Motion by: Bruce Blackwell	Seconded by: Michael Hill
Moved to: Approve the agenda	Upon vote: Unanimous approval

IV. Chair Report

Grace Crummer mentioned setting a date for an NCC park site visit. October 17th date selected at 10 am. Nature Park location will be decided at September NCC meeting.

The re-writing of the City Comprehensive plan was discussed.

V. Treasurer's Report: Linda reported that due to the City's new system (Workday) it is still not possible to retrieve accurate financial reports. However staff have been working on acquiring the list of NCC-funded purchases and have made good progress.

VI. PRCA Staff Report

Linda reported that nature park conditions are very wet due to recent rains. The TRACK Trail has been installed at Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park but the trail is very wet. Two more TRACK Trails still to install. Loblolly Boardwalk repair will begin soon and is scheduled for a Feb 2022 completion date. Sweetwater Wetland Park sediment basin will be cleaned out starting in August.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Policy - None
- b. PR & Awards – Leslie Straub handed out written notes from the committee meeting held in July regarding promotion of the Star Awards. Leslie also handed out a sheet with notes from a previous special achievement award that was presented to former longtime NCC board member Pearse Hayes.

VIII. Liaison Reports (5 min.)

- a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Board (Leanne) No report
- b. Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board (Karen) No report
- c. WSPP Working Group (Penny, Michael) WSPP Working Group meeting was held on July 22. Michael reported on two nature park projects. Penny clarified the ballot language and state statute language for WSPP regarding expenditure of funds.

IX. Friends of Nature Parks Report (Penny):

Penny reported that the FoNP is tentatively looking at the Fall plant sale to be held on October 1 & 2. Penny said there would be at least three guided walks. There was discussion of needing assistance to help maintain the wildflower garden at Ring Park. Karen said she'd be willing to help out.

X. Old Business

- a. Approve Annual Work Plan

Motion by: Leslie Straub	Seconded by: Michael Hill
Moved to: Approve Annual Work Plan	Upon vote: Unanimous approval

XI. New Business

- a. Review Star Award form and edit if necessary

Linda distributed a revised Star Award form that included a new proposed "Amy Carpus Lifetime Achievement Award". Guest Rae Hafer from GRU spoke to the matter. She said she worked with Amy Carpus for 15 years at GRU. Amy Carpus served on the NCC for at least 18 years and started her career at Morningside Nature Center. Rae, Linda and some board members discussed Amy Carpus' contribution to conservation and education, and outreach, creating a strong legacy from her work. Board members envisioned putting more detailed information and photographs on the PRCA and/or Friends of Nature Parks web site regarding Amy Carpus and the award in her honor. The group asked Rae if she could write something up. It was also discussed that Amy Carpus could be the first recipient of the award.

Motion by: Penny Weber	Seconded by: Leslie Straub
Moved to: Approve the Star Award Form with the addition of the Amy Carpus Lifetime Achievement Award. Spend \$100 on Facebook advertising for Star Award	Upon vote: Unanimous approval

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- b. Form nomination committee: Karen, Leslie, and Maddie volunteered to be on the Nomination Committee. The committee will meet 30 minutes prior to the next regular meeting to select a slate of officers for FY22.

XII. Board or Citizen Comments:

Michael Hill mentioned having the NCC board discuss the "Florida Five" five proposed constitutional amendments. Grace Crummer cautioned that the NCC to stick closely to its designated purpose and restrict discussion to matters involving the City's designated nature centers, nature parks, greenways and natural systems. State legislative matters may be beyond the scope of the NCC board.

Next meeting, September 9, 2021

XIII. Adjournment at 7:47 pm

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.

