

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Minutes - Final

February 13, 2020

6:30 PM

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

Nature Centers Commission

Jonathan Reiskind (Vice-Chair)

Nicole Dodds (Member)

Matthew Audette (Member)

Penny Weber (Member)

Amy Carpus (Member)

Kathryn Crummer (Chair)

Leslie Straub (Member)

Shaun Jensen (Member)

Jessica Wilson (Member)

Bruce Blackwell (Member)

Cindy Boulware (Member)

Marylin Prado (Member)

Hannah Gutner (Student Seat)

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Creole relay, please call 1-877-955-8707.

Call to Order and Roll Call, 6:34pm

Agenda Approval

A motion was made by Member Reiskind, seconded by Member Boulware, that this matter be Adopted. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Member Dodds, Chair Crummer, Member Straub, Member Jensen, Member Blackwell, Member Reiskind, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, and Member Prado

Absent: 4 - Member Audette, Member Weber, Member Carpus, and Member Wilson

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Member Blackwell, seconded by Member Boulware, that this matter be Adopted. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Member Dodds, Chair Crummer, Member Straub, Member Jensen, Member Blackwell, Member Reiskind, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, and Member Prado

Absent: 4 - Member Audette, Member Weber, Member Carpus, and Member Wilson

Chair Report

1. The City wants to rename JJ Finley Park, whose namesake was a Confederate general. The Recreation Board will have the final say. the NCC is encouraged to share any ideas.
2. There was a reorganization to who the Parks Dept. reports to (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 Surger - Chair Recreation.

Treasurer's Report

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.

PRCA Staff 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 Arms Nature Park. They came and invasive removal. Clean various locations. Picked up

- trash. Helped 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.

Committee Reports

- a. Policy: no report
- b. PR and Awards: no report

Liaison Reports

- a. Bicycle: no report
- 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: no report

Friends of Nature Parks Report

No Report

Old Business

A motion was made by Member Straub, seconded by Member Boulware, that this matter be Adopted. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

- a. The NCC-requested letter update: Penny took it to the City Manager, walked it through with 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).
- 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 post 4x4 4 feet tall, graphical simple. Well liked.
- c. Star Awards: Everything in process, March 5th, starts at 6pm. 2 awardees are confirmed
- d. Advertising from Star Awards and Nature Parks. Leslie sent her recommendations. New Ads were approved. Nature sounds or turn 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.

Aye: 9 - Member Dodds, Chair Crummer, Member Straub, Member Jensen, Member Blackwell, Member Reiskind, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, and Member Prado

Absent: 4 - Member Audette, Member Weber, Member Carpus, and Member Wilson

New Business

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

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.

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

Adjournment, 7:48pm