

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## **Minutes - Final**

September 10, 2020

6:30 PM

Virtual

## **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, 6:40pm**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Approved Agenda**

**Motion by: Amy Carpus**

**Seconded by: Jon Reiskind**

**Upon vote: Unanimous**

**Present** 13 - Member Dodds, Member Audette, Member Weber, Member Carpus, Chair Crummer, Member Straub, Member Jensen, Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Member Reiskind, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, and Member Prado

[200314.](#) **Approval of Agenda for March 12, 2020 Nature Centers Commission Meeting**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by: Jon Reiskind**

**Second by: Amy Carpus**

**Moved to: Approved Agenda**

**Upon Vote: Unanimous**

[200317.](#) **Approval of Minutes**

RECOMMENDATION *Board members will approve the March 12, 2020 minutes*

**BOARD REPORTS**

**Chair Report**

Chair Crummer reported that she attended the two virtual Chairs meetings with PRCA Director and other board chairs during the last six months. Some topics discussed were as follows:

- Funding of SW 40th Blvd trail was questioned by the WSPP oversight committee.
- Four Creeks Preserve MOU with Alachua County was approved.
- Cultural Outside Agency PAPI and LAA grant funding is doubled for one year
- Renaming of JJ Finley School/Park
- Loblolly Boardwalk Phase 1B closed due to deterioration deck boards.
- Proposed improvements to the City 's Sweetwater Park (not to be confused with Sweetwater Wetlands Park).
- Hogtown Creek Headwaters Park Cox internet.
- Wild Spaces Public ZPlaces has moved under PRCA and it is hoped this will improve communications.

**PRCA Staff Report**

-Linda Demetropoulos provided the July 2020 Managers report to the board

and she also summarized significant happenings from the last six months as follows:

**COVID related updates:**

- Nature Parks remained open but playgrounds and pavilions were closed, then pavilions were later re-opened.
- Maintenance staff and SWP staff have continued to work in the field. Some staff are teleworking.
- Living History Farm remains closed
- Cofrin tennis court was initially closed but is now open.
- Most nature park restrooms remain closed. Cofrin, Loblolly, SWP and Mornignside have open restrooms.
- SWP remained open and did not close. Social distancing measures were implemented which included re-routing trails to allow for social distancing. Member Carpus asked about SWP visitation rates. Ms. Demetropoulos reported that visitation was very high in the spring due to seasonally good weather and the park admission fee being waived. Once the fee was reinstated and we entered the summer season visitation returned to seasonally normal rates.

**Programs and Events were cancelled including:**

- Tuesday Talks series at SWP
- Ranger led walks
- DJJ work days
- Earth Academy Spring Break Camp
- Barnyard Buddies
- Gainesville Greenway Challenge
- Frogs and Friends
- Living History Days
- Spring Native Plant Sale and upcoming Fall Native Plant Sale
- School programs (which are especially active in the spring)
- Earth Academy Day Camp was cancelled except one socially distanced session in July. 1/2 day camp for 10 campers and two JN's were held.

**Committee Report:**

The board discussed the Star Awards. The board decided to skip the Star Awards this year. Jon Reiskind asked what the other boards are doing. Linda will check with the Managers.

**Liaison Report:**

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Board - no report
- Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board - no report
- WSPP Oversight Committee. Amy Carpus reported on significant Wild Spaces project progress.

**Friends of Nature Parks Report**

Penny Weber reported The Friends of Nature Parks has not met since the pandemic started. Penny reported on Poetry in the Parks. Staff assisted with judging the poems and teachers were very excited to have the reports. Teachers emailed the results to the students. There will be no Poetry in the Parks this year due to the pandemic. Penny was asked if Mr. Feldman ever replied to the NCC trail signage proposal. Penny stated that she did not receive a reply from the City Manager.

**New Business:**

- a. Form nomination committee - Chair Crummer appointed Nicole Dodds and Penny Weber to the Nominations jCommittee. One other member is needed for the committee. Linda Demetropoulos will send an email out to board member asking for one more member to serve on the Nominations Committee. Nicole Dodds said that she is not planning on re-applying for another term once her term is up.
- b. Wild Spaces Public Places project list (2021-2024) - Linda Demetropoulos presented the list of Nature Operations Division 2021-2024 priorities (1 through6) to ask the board's review and approval.  
 Motion by Amy Carpus and Seconded by Penny Weber.  
 Moved to: Approve the Nature Operations Division 2021-2024 priorities as presented by staff.  
 Upon Vote: Unanimous
- c. Revised land acquisition list - Linda Demetropoulos walked the board through the updates and changes to the land acquisition list. She stated that there are only two new additions to the list and all other properties listed have been approved by the NCC and City Commission previously. Projects were removed if they were already developed or acquired by the City. Owners names were changed if applicable. In some cases notes were added. Ms. Demetropoulos said that staff was asked to prioritize the projects on the list and she explained how this was achieved. Ms. Demetropoulos then showed the NCC a fully-updated and prioritized list and she discussed the tow new projects that have added, a Tacachale easement, and a strip of land owned by Gainesville county Day School that might provide access to Split Rock Conservation Area. Ms. Demetropoulos asked for members' review and approval of the revised land acquisition list.  
 Motion by: Jon Reiskind and seconded by Amy Carpus  
 Moved to: Approve the updated and prioritized land acquisition list and two new additions to the list, as presented by the staff.  
 Upon Vote: Unanimous

[200313.](#)

**Treasurer's Report**

RECOMMENDATION      *Board will take any action deemed necessary*

**Treasurer's Report**

Linda Demetropoulos reported that there have been no additional expenditures since the last meeting in March 2020. Balance remaining is \$4,798. It was noted that this is the end of the City's fiscal year.

**DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**MEMBER COMMENT**

Jon Reiskind stated that the question of eliminating restrictions on paving certain portions of the Hogtown Creek Greenway will be on November 3rd ballot. This is part of the City's Charter review. It may provide more options for

trail improvement plans in parks such as Loblolly Woods and other Hogtown Creek Greenway parks.

**NEXT MEETING DATE, October 8, 2020**

**ADJOURNMENT, 8:06pm**