

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes - Final

April 8, 2021

6:30 PM

Virtual

Nature Centers Commission

*Jonathan Reiskind (Chair)
Karen Garren (Member)
Penny Weber (Member)
Kathryn G. Crummer (Vice-Chair)
Leslie Straub (Member)
Jessica W. Wilson (Treasurer)
Bruce Blackwell (Member)
Cindy Boulware (Secretary)
Marylin Prado (Member)
Michael Hill (Member)
Matthew Audette (Member)
Nicole Dodds (Member)
Leanne Sheffer (Member)*

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

Call to Order and Roll Call, 6:02pm

Present 18 - Member Dodds, Member Audette, Member Weber, Chair Crummer, Vice-Chair Crummer, Member Straub, Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Member Reiskind, Chair Reiskind, Member Boulware, Member Prado, Chair Crummer, Vice-Chair Crummer, Member Reiskind, Chair Reiskind, Hill, and Sheffer

Absent 1 - Garren

Agenda Approval

[201038.](#)

Expenditure Wish List items Plan Annual Retreat

RECOMMENDATION

The Nature Centers Commission will discuss the Expenditures Wish List and Plan the Annual retreat and will take the appropriate actions

Approval of Minutes

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 re docked 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 talking 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.

Treasurer's Report

Jessica Wilson

\$5,523.00 balance remains, \$50.00 spent on new Board member's book

PRCA 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 participation 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.

Committee Reports

Liaisons did not have any reports

Liaison Reports

The Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center (Formerly Hartman House) is not currently open to the public or ready to host meeting

Friends of Nature Parks Report

Discussion of planning underway for Plant sale in the Fall

Old Business

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 Wetland 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 dissuasion 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 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

7:55pm