

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes - Final

May 13, 2021

6:30 PM

Thomas Center, Building A, Long Gallery

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, 6:33pm

Present 11 - Member Weber, Member Straub, Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Student Seat Gutner, Member Prado, Vice-Chair Crummer, Chair Reiskind, Hill, Garren, and Sheffer

Absent 1 - Member Boulware

Agenda Approval**This matter was Adopted**

Present 11 - Member Weber, Member Straub, Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Student Seat Gutner, Member Prado, Vice-Chair Crummer, Chair Reiskind, Hill, Garren, and Sheffer

Absent 1 - Member Boulware

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Agenda Approval**RECOMMENDATION**

The Nature Centers Commission will discuss the Agenda and will take the appropriate action.

Approval of Minutes

Adopted

Chair Report

Jon attended the monthly Advisory Board Chairs meeting with Interim Director Roxana Gonzalez. Ms. Gonzalez gave a budget request update and noted that she is advocating for requesting a full-time Recreation Leader for Sweetwater Wetlands Park. Geoff Parks, Nature Operations Supervisor, last day of employment was April 29th. the City's Strategic Plan is in works. PRCA is waiting to update the Master Plan and see where they coincide.

Treasurer's Report

\$5,523 balance, same as last time. Purchase of large screen television with mount for new nature center approved in April will be reflected in next month's budget report.

PRCA Staff Report

April monthly report was distributed to all members.
Penny Weber generously donated three pairs of binoculars.
Linda reported on a few of the highlights which included a staffing update, and reported on a prescribed burn at Morningside which spotted over to another

unit and burned an additional 20 acres for a total of 26 Acres.

Committee Reports

- a. Policy - no reports
- b. PR and Awards - no report
- c. Nominations - no report

Liaison Reports

- a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Board - no report
- b. Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board - no report
- c. PRCA WSPP Working Group - Mike and Penny attended April 14th meeting. Betsy Waite commented on improvements at NE and McPherson parks. 2021 project list includes Boulware Park renovation, Loblolly boardwalk, Ring Park and Duval Park signage. There was also discussion on the County's efforts to extend the Wild Spaces and Public Places program which is funded by a half-cent sales tax.

Friends of Nature Parks Report

Penny sent a handout describing Morningside's Earth Academy Day Camp outline for five weeks of summer camp. Two students received scholarships for 4 sessions, met with them and their families, approved. Next FoNP meeting June 6th.

Old Business

"Wish List" - there was discussion of putting the "Wish List" into annual retreat agenda. After discussion of annual retreat format, Leslie returned to discussion of "wish list" expenditures. Having summed projected costs in the written list that was presented at the April NCC meeting, and subtracting totals from NCC finances, leaving surplus of \$1,188, Leslie moved to propose approval of the list's expenses. No one seconded and discussion continued. Jon said the fiscal year starts in October. Grace asked if anyone objected to any expenditures. Leslie pointed out that if the monies were not used, they would be lost. Marilyn said someone had offered to donate school supplies. Michael asked if Natural Resource Management staff had any requests. Linda said no had been made. Jon read the written list aloud and summarized expenses which included trail maps for Sweetwater Wetlands Park. Marilyn seconded Leslie's motion, unanimous vote to approve "wish list" expenditures.

New Business

Annual retreat - Linda has reserved the Thomas Center long gallery for June 10th, day after Bruce's birthday. Usually catered but last one in 2019 was a potluck. All agreed to make it a potluck. Grace asked if we could start earlier, all agreed on 5:30, meeting to last 2 hours. Leanne suggested bringing our own utensils; Karen asked if we could bring wine. Leslie asked how many vegetarians, all encouraged to accommodate non-animal product options. Penny Weber requested two items be placed on the retreat agenda. 1) She asked for the NCF to consider lobbying for Wild Spaces to pay for staffing and maintenance for Morningside Nature Center in FY21-22. 2) She asked for the NCC to consider how the stature of Morningside Nature Center, with its diversity of plants and significant habitat, could be elevated as a teaching site in FY22-23.

Board or Citizen Comments

Karen asked about signage for Greentree Park. She was told by an NCC board member that would come out of the Nature Ops. budget and would need a work order.

Adjournment