

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes - Final

June 10, 2021

5:30 PM

Thomas Center, Bldg 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)
Leanne Sheffer (Member)
Hannah Gutner (Member)
Madilena Campbell (Member)*

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

Call to Order and Roll Call 6:18pm

Present 13 - Member Weber, Member Straub, Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, Member Prado, Vice-Chair Crummer, Chair Reiskind, Hill, Garren, Sheffer, and Campbell

Agenda Approval

Adopted

Approval of Minutes

This was Adopted

[210073.](#)

NCC Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION

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

Chair Report

Jon Reiskind - The interim Director reported that they are interviewing for the Nature Operations Supervisor position vacated by Geoff Parks. Jon said he will not be able to attend the July and August NCC meetings. Jon suggested that he NCC conduct nature park site visits in the fall.

Treasurer's Report

Jessica reported that the large screen TV for the nature center has been received but the charge has not been deducted from the NCC budget yet. the balance shows \$5,523 remaining.

PRCA Staff Report

The City of Gainesville is switching to "Workday", a new computer software system that is an inclusive "all in one" system. As a result of this change there will be a delay in functional operations.

The City is re-writing its Comprehensive Plan to include social equity as its overarching goal. The most relevant Comprehensive Plan elements for NCC to watch would be the Recreation and Conservation elements.

The City has announced that starting July 6 all operations are "back to normal". city staff will return to the workplace and facilities will resume normal hours.

Staff are looking at resuming regular fall programming.

EE staff have been busy preparing for summer camp and brainstorming programming for Headwaters.

She reported on recent staff hiring in the Nature Operations Division.

Committee Reports

- a. Policy - Have not met, no report
- b. PR & Awards - Have not met, no report. Leslie Straub requested a PR & Awards Committee meeting for July
- c. Nominations - Have not met, no report

Liaison Reports

- a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Board - No Report
- b. Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board - Karen reported that the group is working on a new policy format for future recreational land use. A committee is being formed due to frequent public request and concern over the future of Westend Golf course. there is momentum to push the County to take over in order to prevent the green space from being developed into housing or commerce.
- c. PRCA WSPP Working Group - Have not met, no report.

Friends of Nature Parks Report

Penny reported that Friends is striving to regroup and prepare for a busy season with the Cane Boil and Plant sale. A letter was received from Gary Paul which suggested that Morningside could be better used for nature and environmental education including the history of African American Schoolhouse on the property which was used in the 1900's. Mr. Paul has requested that the Nature centers Commission assist in this cause and include it as a part of the Work-plan.

Old Business

- a. Annual Retreat/Annual Work Plan. The board summarized accomplishments and strategize upcoming initiatives. Grace Crummer took the lead and will send out a summary to Linda to distribute to members for review and comment.

New Business

None

Board or Citizen Comments

Donald Sheperd (entered late) discussed the fate of manatees and his political aspirations.

Bruce asked why palms had been cut on South Main Street.

Adjournment

7:42pm