

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes - Final

October 14, 2021

6:15 PM

City Hall Basement, Room 16

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, 6:31pm

Present 11 - Member Weber, Member Straub, Member Blackwell, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, Member Prado, Chair Reiskind, Hill, Garren, Sheffer, and Campbell

Absent 2 - Member Wilson, and Vice-Chair Crummer

Agenda Approval

Unanimous vote

Approval of Minutes

Unanimous vote

[210527.](#)

August 12, 2021 Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

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

Chair Report

No Report

Chair observed that Leslie Straub and Grace Crummer's terms on the NCC are expiring.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Demetropoulos reported that the new fiscal year available budget is \$5,573.

PRCA Staff Reports

Staff hiring: Interviewing for full-time and half-time Recreation Leader positions, offer has been extended to Nature Operations Supervisor candidate. Education programming: wild flower walks resumed, Cane boil will be lower Key this year, no fiddle fest, scheduled for Saturday after Thanksgiving. Survey for Great Invader Raider Rally, should it be virtual or live? So far 77% respondents voted for "in person". Also asked: why do you attend? Want T'? Yes. "Help remove invasive plants", Enjoy activity with kids". Feb 2022 to avoid conflict with Medieval Faire. City of Gainesville is requesting comments on the Comprehensive Plan re-write. "Our Environment" discussion under board or citizen comments. Linda Demetropoulos explained that there is often much confusion regarding the name Sweetwater Wetlands Park since there is a City Sweetwater Park and a County Sweetwater Preserve. There will be a move to re-name the park. She explained the re-naming process per the city's Park Naming policy adopted by the City Commission in 2012. First step is a petition. Five hundred signatures need to be obtained. NCC will receive written request at first

meeting. NCC will discuss at second meeting. NCC will vote at third meeting.
City cCommission will ultimately approve the name change. there was
discussion regarding potential names.

Committee Reports

- a. Policy - no report
- b. PR & Awards - no report
- c. Nominations - Leslie Straub provided the slate proposed by the Naomination committee:
Marylyn for Chair
2 nominations for Vice-chair: Mike and Leanne
Karen for Secretary
Jessie for Treasurer
Vote to take place under Old Business.

Liaison Reports

- a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Board - no report
- b. Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board - ROSCO minutes obtained, to be reviewed.
- c. WSPP Working Grroup - no report

Friends of Nature Parks Report

There is a FoNP board meeting Monday
Fall plant sale canceled (due to COVID)
Cane Boil and Fiddle Fest - working on getting string band.
Outreach programs - It is difficult to reengage schools. Reaching out to kids group: PACE for Girls, Kids Count, Aces; all help undeserved kids get more education.
Amy Carpus information and link to activities, volunteer opportunities will be posted on FoND web site.
Jon recommended that all NCC members join FoNP.

Old Business

- a. Elect Officers
Proposed slate (as recommended by Nominations committee):
Marylyn for Chair

2 nominations for Vice-chair: Mike and Leanne

Karen for Secretary

Jesse for Treasurer

Chair Reiskind asked if there were nominations from the floor, suggested that Chair be considered first, and suggested paper ballots.

Leanne proposed Michael Hill for Chair

Upon paper ballot vote, Michael Hill 5 votes, Marilyn 4 votes.

Vice Chair

Leslie Straub nominated Marilyn for Vice-Chair, Leanne second.

Bruce Blackwell nominated Leanne for Vice -chair, CJ second.

Upon paper ballot vote, Marilyn 6 votes, Leanne 3 votes

Secretary

Karen was nominated. No other nominations for the floor.

Chair declared Karen as Secretary

Treasurer

Jesse was nominated. No other nominations from the floor.

chair declared Jesse as Treasurer.

b. Committee appointments

Jon proposes next chair make committee appointments. recommends reviewing committee responsibilities

c. Star Award update and select Star Award Photograph

Jon reminded the board that the PR and Awards Committee meets to consider the Star Awards nominations. .

Star Awards Update

Linda reported that there have been two on-line applications for Star Award and one wasn't valid. there is a Green Business nomination for First Magnitude. Additionally, today Bruce nominated Oak Hammock for Green Business.

Star Awards Photograph

The board considered Star Award photos that Linda provided. Photos of scarlet hibiscus. blue butterwort, pine barren forest weed, railroad vine, Sabatia. The board favored the scarlet hibiscus photo.

Leanne proposed Michael Hill for chair, Mike second

New Business

None

Board or Citizen Comments

Board was reminded of field trip to Morningside Nature Center, Sunday Oct. 17th at 10am. Sally Wazny and Justin Niblack will be the field trip leaders.

Park site visit, October 17, 2021, Morningside Nature Center

Reschedule next meeting due to conflict with Veteran's Day Holiday

the board selected a new date of November 18th for the next meeting due to the conflict with Veteran's Day.

Adjournment, 7:46pm