

# City of Gainesville

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



## **Minutes - Final**

**November 18, 2021**

**6:30 PM**

**City Hall Basement, Room 16**

## **Nature Centers Commission**

*Jonathan Reiskind (Chair)  
Karen Garren (Member)  
Penny Weber (Member)  
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)  
Richard Bennett (Member)*

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

## Call to Order and Roll Call, 6:34pm

**New Member Richard Bennett was introduced.**

**Present** 10 - Member Straub, Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, Member Prado, Chair Reiskind, Hill, Garren, and Bennett

**Absent** 3 - Member Weber, Sheffer, and Campbell

## Agenda Approval

**A motion was made by Garren, seconded by Hill, that this matter be Adopted .  
The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 10 - Member Straub, Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, Member Prado, Chair Reiskind, Hill, Garren, and Bennett

**Absent:** 3 - Member Weber, Sheffer, and Campbell

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## Agenda Approval

### RECOMMENDATION

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

## Approval of Minutes

**A motion was made by Garren, seconded by Member Blackwell, that this matter be Adopted . The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 10 - Member Straub, Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Student Seat Gutner, Member Boulware, Member Prado, Chair Reiskind, Hill, Garren, and Bennett

**Absent:** 3 - Member Weber, Sheffer, and Campbell

## Chair Report

**There was no Chairs meeting this month. The next Chairs meeting with the Interim Parks Director is scheduled for December 3**

## Treasurer's Report

**There was no new spending, maintain Balance of \$5,573**

## PRCA Staff Report

**Morningside Cane Boil/Fiddle Fest is Saturday, 11/27, 10am-3pm  
Hardwood removal project is taking place at Boulware to reduce off-site hardwoods for restoration.**

Nature Operations Supervisor is scheduled to start work. He will attend an NCC meeting when settled in.

Loblolly boardwalk repair is underway and making good progress.

There is a new program "Citizen Science for kids" at Headwaters Nature Park, Nov. 21st on spiders. 1st program in new building.

Gainesville Greenway Challenge (to address invasive plants); volunteers from Trilogy School pulled tuberous sword fern at Ring Park. Habitat Naturalist is working on Ring wildflower garden project with a volunteer who is working with Wendy Wilber.

FWC has an Upland Invasive Exotic Plant Management Program. Nature Operations applies to this program annually for invasive plant treatment. There is a current contract for Ardisia treatment at Colclough Pond Nature Park.

## Committee Report

### a. Policy Committee

Michael reported on discussion from virtual Policy Committee meeting that took place on 11/4/2021 regarding Imaging GNV, Gainesville's proposed Comprehensive Plan. Linda had previously sent a link to members with the current City Comprehensive plan. Linda stated she was worried that grant applications (such as Florida Communities Trust) that required a local government to meet certain Comprehensive Plan requirements would be jeopardized. Linda suggested that the city could revise current plan or include the equity plan (Imagine GNV) as an addendum.

Mike proposed to draft a letter to City Commission from NCC with combined comments.

Jesse observed that the draft Imagine GNV does not address land use like Comprehensive Plans typically do. It also appears to address the built environment but should really focus on the natural environment. Jesse wondered if other elements are as drastically different as "Our Environment"

Bruce thinks that letter should state that Imagine GNV jeopardizes Florida Forever grant.

Leslie suggested that the letter reflect a unified message. The City should maintain the current Comp Plan and integrate Imagine GNV into it in order to maintain the structure.

Karen Noted that all of the recommended surveys will be expensive. Karen wants to see this element promote Community Gardens and edible landscape. Karen wants to see heritage trees protected, planting more trees, and landscaping throughout the city.

Jon recommended that the NCC board's assignment should be to review the existing Comprehensive Plan (Conservation Element & Recreation Elements) and compare it to Imagine GNV. He said that inequities need to be addressed. Could Imagine GNV be an addendum to the Comp Plan? This chapter needs to focus on environmental land use. There needs to be a community education element regarding nature for people in undeserved communities. Jon thinks Outcome 3 is appropriate.

Things Michael would like to include in a letter:

Draft should be addendum to previous plan

"Our Environment" should focus on environmental land use, water quality, air quality, and other things to do with environmental health.

Would like to see more concrete numbers.

Education element for nature in undeserved communities

The board should read the current Comprehensive Plan before writing the letter.

The board should have a Policy Committee meeting again to discuss before the December meeting. Date TBA.

The City is taking public comments anytime through January and will hold a public workshop on January 26th (moved from 11/21)

b. PR & Awards Committee - Did not meet.

c. Nominations Committee - Did not meet.

## **Liaison Reports**

a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Board: No report

b. County Rec. and Open Space Advisory Board: ROSCO - Karen read a summary of minutes/attendees, parks projects and funding, success of Summer day camp at Cusawilla, board tour of camp by Staff Lexi Green.

c. PRCA WSPP Working Group: no meeting

## **Friends of Nature Park Report**

No report

## **Old Business**

a. Star Awards Update

Photo selected at last meeting (scarlet hibiscus) for plaque is not usable because it is not available in high resolution. the board did not like the other choices. Jon moved to table until next meeting, Karen 2nd, vote carries. Members said they will seek other images.

## **New Business**

- a. Imagine GNV (discussed under Committee reports)
- b. Committee appointments.
  - PR and Awards: Marilyn, Richard, Karen, Bruce, Penny
  - Policy: Jesse, Jon, Karen, Maddie
  - Mike is "ex officio", Committee convened for purpose, dissolved when complete.

## **Board or Citizen Comments**

Karen on Morningside "field trip": appreciative of staff input; however, rather than wildflower walk, would like bit of acquisition history, description of ecosystems and how fits into overall city parks systems, land management and adjacent impacts, staff needs, successes and challenges. Would like NCC to advocate to City Commission, maybe take members on field trips. Would like NCC members to promote specific park's history/mamagment, have monthly field trips.

**Adjournment, 7:55pm**