

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes - Final

June 9, 2022

6:00 PM

Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Center

Nature Centers Commission

*Jonathan Reiskind (Chair)
Karen Garren (Member)
Penny Weber (Member)
Jessica W. Wilson (Treasurer)
Bruce Blackwell (Member)
Cindy Boulware (Secretary)
Marylin Prado (Member)
Michael Hill (Member)
Leanne Sheffer (Member)
Madilena Campbell (Member)
Richard Bennett (Member)
Susan Jacobson (Member)
Jonathan Stephens (Student Seat)*

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Spanish to English relay. please call 1-844-463-9710.

Park tour at 6 pm prior to regular meeting. Regular meeting to convene in nature center at 6:30 pm

Call to Order, 6:30pm and roll call

Present 10 - Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Member Prado, Chair Reiskind, Member Hill, Member Garren, Member Campbell, Member Bennett, Member Jacobson, and Member Stephens

Absent 3 - Member Weber, Member Boulware, and Member Sheffer

Agenda Approval

A motion was made by Chair Reiskind, seconded by Member Bennett, that this matter be Adopted . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Member Prado, Chair Reiskind, Member Hill, Member Garren, Member Campbell, Member Bennett, Member Jacobson, and Member Stephens

Absent: 3 - Member Weber, Member Boulware, and Member Sheffer

[211297.](#) [Approval of the agenda for June 9, 2022](#)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Member Bennett, seconded by Chair Reiskind, that this matter be Adopted . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Member Prado, Chair Reiskind, Member Hill, Member Garren, Member Campbell, Member Bennett, Member Jacobson, and Member Stephens

Absent: 3 - Member Weber, Member Boulware, and Member Sheffer

Chair Report

The Chair reported that there was no Chair's meeting with the PRCA Director. Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Demetropoulos reported that there is \$5,340 remaining from the original \$5,573 budget.

PRCA Staff Report

Linda Demetropoulos reported on staff hiring within the Nature Operations Division.

Linda discussed the Ordinance Revising Code Sections Relating to Boards and Committees that she had sent out to the board in a previous email. There was a brief discussion of the changes including the board requirement for an annual report, the City Commission now has the power to eliminate any board that they deem no longer necessary, and board member term limits.

Environmental Education staff partnered with Friends of Nature Parks to submit a funding proposal to Alachua Audubon.

Cully Lord reported on successes with burning and habitat management.

Challenges include being short staffed on the maintenance side. Linda encouraged everyone to go see Boulware after all the recent burning that has been accomplished.

Cully thanked Rich Bennett for the trail maintenance work that the scouts did at Cofrin Nature Park.

Committee Reports

- a. Policy - no report
- b. PR & Awards - no report

Liaison Reports

- a. Bicycle & Pedestrian Board - no report
- b. Recreation & Open Space Advisory Board Karen said that she attended the ROSCO board meeting. The County staff presented emergency action plan including weather response and other disasters.
- c. PRCA WSPP Working Group - Linda sent a previous email to board members regarding the recent General Policy committee meeting where the WSPP update and proposed ballot initiative was discussed. Linda said a potential project list was not presented to City Commissioners or to the public. City Commissioners made their comments related to the Power Point presented by Phil Mann. Commissioners comments included projects that they would like to see added to the list, such as the Hogtown Creek Greenway, and a new project called the Sweetwater Greenway. Linda discussed the problem involved with calling yet another thing "Sweetwater".

Friends of Nature Parks Report

No Report

Old Business

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

Aye: 10 - Member Wilson, Member Blackwell, Member Prado, Chair Reiskind, Member Hill, Member Garren, Member Campbell, Member Bennett, Member Jacobson, and Member Stephens

Absent: 3 - Member Weber, Member Boulware, and Member Sheffer

Old Business

Not to have a park site visit in July

New Business

a. San Felasco Park - habitat restoration presentation by Cully Lord. Cully Lord explained the proposed restoration in detail. He mentioned that he will be meeting with the adjacent Sterling Place homeowner's association next week. When the presentation was finished the board asked some questions.

- There was a question about burn priorities at Morningside Nature Center.
- Jon asked if the City has the resources to undertake the project. Cully said that he has identified the resources to, at minimum, get the fire lines installed.
- Michael asked about the wetland area that is east of the burn units. Cully said that it is a dome swamp. Cully said that we do not want fire to enter the dome swamp area.
- Cully spoke about the duff moisture and duff moisture measurement tool.
- Bruce asked a question regarding the tree canopy species that one might find. Cully said that there is Slash, Longleaf, and Loblolly pines. Hardwoods include hickory and oaks. Sand live oak is in the scrubby Flatwoods that is not in the burn area.
- Jonathan asked about financial constraints. Cully said that he plans to get a quote from a contractor for brush mowing. He will ask Wild Spaces & Public Places if they can contribute to the project.
- Karen asked about duff removal. Cully said that repeated burning will remove small layers over a long time. You need to burn under ideal conditions for this to happen. There is exact science behind it.
- Karen asked how old the pines are. Cully said he believes that there could be some pines that are 150 years old.
- Karen asked about the brush cutting. Does that cut vegetation decompose over time? Cully said the timing is critical to burn after brush cutting.
- Bruce said he thinks the duff is valuable for moisture and nutrients. Cully explained that the nutrient exchange takes place at the soil surface. The duff is an unnaturally thick layer that builds up over time without fire and impedes this process. Cully would be willing to provide more information on this topic. The board was generally supportive of the restoration plan.

b. Budget/wish list items: The board was encouraged to review the list and it

will be discussed at the July 14th board meeting.

Board or Citizen Comments

Vote to have a park site visit to San Felasco park in June.
Motion died for lack of support.

Susan asked if one can walk in San Felasco Park on their own. Cully said that there is a trail system outlined on the map that he presented to board members.

Karen Garren said that she is concerned about the plans to build an overflow parking lot at Hogtown Creek Headwaters in an area where the overgrown vegetation attracts lots of pollinators.

Adjournment, 8pm

Next meeting, July 14, 2022 - Decide meeting location