

**SEMINOLE COUNTY LEISURE SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE/NATURAL LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING October 20, 2009**

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members in attendance:

Mark Brandenburg
Barbara Whittier
Tom Boyko
Trish Walden (by phone) for presentation

Staff:

Bryan Nipe, Jim Duby, Jane Millen

LOCATION:

Ed Yarborough Nature Center
Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N. County Road 426
Geneva, FL 32732

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

Mark Brandenburg called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark started with an introduction and discussion on where the committee goes from here. He stated we're entering a period of education to learn as much as possible about the Natural Lands Program as well as other similar County programs. He encouraged members to visit the NL website and make notes on what they feel may be ways to make it better and more user friendly and visit other websites as well. Jim mentioned a 2006 study conducted by Sarasota County that discusses average staffing and funding levels for similar programs. Jim will forward this study to Kathi Clifford for distribution.

Jane Millen gave an overview of what's taking place with NL programming. She discussed the expansion of existing programs as well as the addition of some new ideas. She described a three series of programming featuring Florida Natives, Outdoor Adventure and a Go Green series. Adding this variety will be sure to increase the NL audience and is structured to build a sense of stewardship and advocacy for the program.

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A brief discussion followed regarding how the committee members should be communicating with their Commissioner. Tom stated that he tried to call and talk to his commissioner at least weekly. Other suggestions were monthly or bimonthly face to face meetings or email updates after meetings or committee related events such as field trips. Jim then gave a brief presentation on the Geneva Wilderness Area, its history and natural resources. The group discussed the Inventory and Analysis form and proposed improvements to the property. This was followed by a site tour and visits to the nature center, entrance area, shop, camp grounds trails and burn units. Discussion often centered on the Natural Lands providing a different visitor experience than a typical park or campground and how we increase exposure and awareness without adversely affecting the eco-systems present.

Mark closed the meeting with a summary of to dos for the group. Members are to visit websites and research other programs for ideas and discussion at future meetings. Mark, Bryan and Jim will meet to discuss and finalize agenda and plans for next month's meeting.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 5:15 p.m.