

**SEMINOLE COUNTY
PARKS & PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NATURAL LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING October 24, 2012**

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Tom Boyko, Barbara Whittier

Staff:

Jim Duby, Richard Durr

LOCATION:

Geneva Wilderness Area

TIME:

8:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. and the minutes for the July 25, 2012 were approved.

The group discussed a need to settle the time discrepancy. Jim stated he would coordinate with Kathi to set future meetings at 8:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Youth Conservation Center – Jim discussed staff's trip to the Ocala Youth Conservation Center, an older but good example of all the programs and amenities for a successful center. Amenities included a climate controlled multipurpose room, bunk style cabins for campers and counselor cabins for instructors. A large lake provides opportunities for boating, canoeing and fishing activities and multiple shooting ranges for archery and small fire arms. Some discussion followed regarding the setting of milestones over the next year as we plan for the Seminole County Center. Staff will be acquiring sample business and site plans from other successful centers to help in this process.

Natural Lands Enhancement Projects – Miller Legg is moving forward and should be at 30% design and cost estimate by the end of the month. Staff attended a pre-application meeting with the Water Management District and Army Corps of Engineers where the projects were all discussed. No major hurdles were identified.

Big Tree Park Update – The group had a brief discussion on the status of Big Tree Park, the Artisan contracts and Legacy Pieces process. Rick explained several things that have been done or are in the progress to better secure the natural area of the park from the parking and recreational facilities. Jim explained that the artisan agreements have been approved and the next phase will be removal and division of the wood among them. Legacy pieces have been distributed to local institutions per the first round of applications. Second round applicants will be considered after the artisans have acquired what they need. Rick discussed the playground replica stump project that will be a part of the re-opening of the park and memorial of the Senator.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget - Jim reviewed the current year's budget and clarified what funds will be used for. Barbara inquired as to whether big ticket items, improvements could be paid for out of this budget. Rick explained that these would be handled as CIP projects generated through the master planning process.

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Master Plan – Rick discussed the site visit by the consultant and the gathering of information from site visits to other natural lands sites. He stated there would be an all day planning session, probably at the Zoo, for public input as well as a separate workshop for the Parks and Preservation Advisory Committee.

Next meeting was set for November 14, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. Agenda will be a Natural Lands visioning session to develop a wish list of improvement projects for NL sites and the nature center.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.