

**SEMINOLE COUNTY
PARKS & PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NATURAL LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING December 4, 2013**

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Tom Boyko, Barbara Whittier

Staff:

Jim Duby

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 November meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Youth Conservation Center – Jim Duby stated that another meeting with Andrew Neff and Johnny Edwards from the Environmental Services Dept. was scheduled to further refine the area necessary to be transferred into the Natural Lands Program for the center. Jim updated the committee on the additional review of the Bell parcel with Joe Abel and Rick Durr and stated that staff would need to provide a compelling argument for purchasing additional sites when the County already owned 3,000 acres of adjacent property. The group discussed the savings that might be realized in developed costs such as access road, clearing and grubbing, clearing of intact habitat as opposed to pasture and length and construction of a boardwalk and dock to access Mullet Lake.

Natural Lands Enhancement Projects Update – Jim let the group know that the contract for the Natural Lands Enhancement Projects with Shoemaker Const., as well as the related BAR, was approved by the BCC on November 19, 2013. Also approved was a BAR for a tortoise habitat restoration grant for \$15,000 that Sherry applied for and received for the Lake Proctor Wilderness Area.

Jim discussed other improvements that will be made to the entrance areas of the GWA, BBWA and LHWA by in house staff in conjunction with the other improvements made by the contractor. Jim stated this would possibly start in January. Barbara expressed a desire to be involved in the review of the landscape planning for these areas.

Website Changes – Jim did not have an update on this topic but will talk with Sherry Williams and provide an update at the next meeting..

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Lands Budget – The committee had questions regarding the budget for Natural Lands and how much was allocated for treating exotics and other land management tasks. Jim explained the three sources. General Fund pays for salaries; Bond Fund for acquisition and initial improvements and the Donation (endowment) Fund pays for ongoing management. Jim explained that the operating budget is funded out of the Donation Fund and he has recently learned that the fund is actually still growing despite the annual expenses. Staff will be

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researching the difference to assess whether budgeting up to the difference is possible, in affect treating it much like a true endowment fund.

The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Black Bear Wilderness Area (weather permitting). The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.