

**SEMINOLE COUNTY  
PARKS & PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
NATURAL LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:**

Tom Boyko  
Barbara Whittier  
David Williamson  
Jeff Ebbers

**Staff:**

Jim Duby

**Guests:**

Jim Coffin

**LOCATION:**

Geneva Wilderness Area

**TIME:**

8:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Flatwoods Pavilion, Geneva Wilderness Area. The minutes from the June 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Natural Land Project Updates** – Jim Duby gave a brief update on each of the three projects as follows.

Black Bear – The project was completed and the property re-opened June 12, 2015. Public use has been high for summer months. Staff continues to monitor use. Site will need to be closed this winter due to construction of new FPL transmission line across property.

Geneva Wilderness Area – The pavilion is complete. New picnic tables assembled by staff. GWA campus (includes center and pavilion) is available for rental at \$32/hour which covers cost of onsite contract staff person. Plans for BBQ grill.

Lake Harney – Jim Duby reported that the tower was complete with the exception of railings and the boardwalk was app. 75% complete. Site conditions are very wet as group witnessed during field trip to the site. **Group took a field trip to visit the site to see status of construction progress.**

**Natural Lands projects for the Foundation** – Group discussed possible project for Spring Hammock boardwalks. Jim Duby stated that the cost to replace two major boardwalks, one to lake Jesup and one across the middle of the swamp was app. one million dollars.

**Budget discussion** – Jim Duby discussed that the proposed budget passed the first public hearing and the second was last night. If approved it included funding for a contract position to assist with land management activities such as trail clearing, exotic species control, wildlife surveys etc... Tom Boyko asked how the program's equipment was

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holding up and Jim explained they had recently acquired a new tractor and disc and the bush hog was due to be replaced this year. David Williamson requested revenue numbers from our programs and Jim stated that would be brought to the next meeting in October.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Plans and Marketing for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Review tentative schedule. Lori Hartsock provided information on the tentative schedule for the day including vendor booths, hikes, nature center programs etc... She explained that our marketing staff, Ashley Moore and Parks manager Shorty Robbins were coordinating much of the promotions over social media and we were also distributing posters and brochures. She also explained that signs would be placed at each of 9 properties for a “selfie photo contest”. Lori also asked that if they would like to volunteer or knows someone who would like to volunteer to please contact her directly.

**Meeting time discussion** – Group discussed possible options for a new meeting day and to accommodate request from Ed Ghiglieri. The third Friday of the month or Friday before the PPAC meeting was proposed, voted on and approved unanimously, pending acceptability with Ed Ghiglieri.

Meeting adjourned at app. 10:15 a.m.

**Next meeting scheduled for October 21, 2015 however, this may change to third Friday as discussed.**