

**SEMINOLE COUNTY
PARKS & PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NATURAL LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OCTOBER 30, 2015**

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Tom Boyko
Barbara Whittier
David Williamson
Jeff Ebbers

Staff:

Jim Duby
Lori Hartsock

LOCATION:

Geneva Wilderness Area

TIME:

8:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center, Geneva Wilderness Area. The minutes from the September 2015 meeting **were not** reviewed for approval so will be addressed at November 20, 2015 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Lands Program (NLP) attendance and revenue review – Lori Hartsock provided a handout highlighting the overall revenue for the NLP divided into three categories including NL Activities \$3,917.00, Eco Camps \$35,280.00 and Caretaker rent \$12,000.00 for a total program revenue of \$51,197.00 Lori also presented a total participants number for all programs of 7,143. Jim Duby stated the Natural Lands Bond Fund had approximately 1.5 million left in it and the NLP Donation fund approximately \$799,000.00

Natural Lands 25th Anniversary Celebration Update – Jim reviewed the event schedule and map for the day's activities. Discussed location, logistics, exhibitors and programming. Jim extended an invitation to the members to speak at the opening ceremony. The members were grateful for the invite however, said they would leave that to Jim Duby and the County Leaders

Natural Land Project Updates - Lake Harney – Jim Duby reported that the boardwalk and tower are complete however, the crushed shell path failed inspection do to ADA non-compliance (not firm enough). The contractor and NL staff are researching possible methods to firm up the path.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pine trees under FPL powerline on McCulloch rd. - David Williamson explained he had observed where FPL had cut (topped) approximately 20 pine trees along the Econ River Wilderness Area south property line leaving the lower half of trees along the fence. Jim Duby explained he had talked with the crew and informed them they could cut the entire tree and dispose of it in the palmettos however, the crew stated they were unauthorized to do so. NL staff later followed up and removed some of the remaining half trees but some were still too close to power lines to safely address.

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Agenda Add Ons –

SJRWMD Easement – Jim Duby explained that the NLP was working with the water management district to establish two easements, one at Sylvan Lake Park for an existing monitoring well and one at Lake Proctor Wilderness Area for a new well. These would be for monitoring ground water levels as well as establishing wetland vegetation transects as part of the Districts “Central Florida Water Initiative” program. This is a long term monitoring program the District is conducting to ensure adequate water resources for Central Florida into the future.

NLP Intern/Contract Position – Jim Duby informed the group that the budgeted part time position had been approved and a biology student from UCF, Brittany Morrow has been hired in the position. The primary focus will be to survey and treat exotic species as required by State grants received by the NLP.

NLP Projects and Day to Day Operating Discussion – Jim provided a copy of the Nov. 2015 NLP team meeting agenda which highlights the active projects, programming and day to day issues the NLP staff are currently working on. Several projects and issues were clarified and the group agreed it was beneficial to see this type of information on occasion.

Subcommittee Focus Discussion – The subcommittee had a brief discussion regarding their focus in the future. A consensus was reached that the NLP should make contact with the Central Florida Zoo regarding any possible partnership with their new direction towards educational opportunities. They also agreed on moving forward with the Youth Conservation Center effort.

Meeting time discussion – Group discussed possible options for a new meeting day and agreed on the third Friday of the month or Friday before the PPAC meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for November, 2015. The topic of whether to have a December meeting will be discussed then.

Meeting adjourned at app. 9:50 a.m.