

**SEMINOLE COUNTY
PARKS & PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NATURAL LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 22, 2016**

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Tom Boyko, David Williamson, Jeff Ebbers, Lee Ricci

Staff:

Jim Duby, Lori Hartsock

LOCATION:

Geneva Wilderness Area
3485 N. County Rd 426, Geneva FL

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 November 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lady Liberty Cloning Update –

Jim gave a summary of this project with Arch Angel Ancient Tree Archive and described the collection day event. Media included Fox 35, Channel 9 and Orlando Sentinel. SGTV also recorded the day's event and made the footage available at a drop box for other media. The samples collected will be grown into small saplings with 20 being returned to the County plant at locations yet to be decided. Possible locations include schools, other government buildings, Spring Hammock Preserve and Lake Harney Wilderness Area. Another media event may be held to celebrate the return and planting of the saplings.

Lake Harney Observation Tower – Jim Duby said he had received many calls and emails commending Seminole County on such a nice amenity. Common theme is "they never knew the property existed much less the tower!" Need to explore other ways to get the word out! Jim brought Commissioner Dallari and his Aide Kendra to site to view completed project.

Black Bear Wilderness Area – Jim stated that the popularity of this site has exceeded all expectations generating multiple phone calls and inquiries a week. Lori Hartsock stated the primitive campsite is also gaining popularity and has had approx. 5 bookings. Several large group meetings on site have resulted in cars parking on the road right of ways. One group last week contained 121 hikers! The GNLD Special Projects Team is currently working to expand and improve the parking area which will more than triple the current capacity.

NEW BUSINESS:

Expanded Programming – Lori Hartsock presented a review of the NLP programs and new ideas that included a "Spring into Fear" night hike in March as an alternative to the October date, Nature Crafts Class in our new pavilion for younger audiences and a fishing program for older children on our new fishing pier. The group discussed options to get the

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word out regarding our site and programs included Face Book, Next Door and other social media venues. Lori said she would be following up with Ashley Moore regarding these and other ways to market programming.

Other business – Jim Duby mentioned a recent visit to the Spring Hammock Preserve to assess the population of large cypress trees in regards to the future alignment of the boardwalk to Lake Jesup. He stated that it looks like the current route may be the most advantageous but staff would be following up with an accurate GPS survey in the future. The group discussed volunteerism and how that is managed. Jim stated that he has reviewed and edited an “Adopt a River” form through SERV with the intent of working with this group to help recruit and manage volunteer events on Natural Land sites. Once this document is further reviewed with SERV staff Jim will bring it to the Committee for review, comment and discussion on how this will help the Natural Lands Program.

A question was raised as to the status of the “Friends Of” organization in regards to volunteering and it was thought that this group would be more focused on fund raising but follow up with Barbara would need to be done to confirm.

The group discussed the desire to get back into the field for future meetings and decided the Spring Hammock Preserve and Black Hammock Wilderness Areas would be the first on the list.

Next Meeting – The group agreed to meet on February 19th at 8:00 a.m. at the Spring Hammock Preserve parking area.

Meeting adjourned at app. 9:30 a.m.