**Urban Wilderness Advisory Board**
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Central Broward Regional Park
Main Building Conference Room
3700 NW 11th Place
Lauderhill, FL 33311

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

**Roll Call:** Roll was called; a quorum was present.

**Board Members Present:**
Corey Callaghan
Marcey Carabelli
Ken Evans
Diana Guidry
Brian Rosen

**Staff:**
Linda Briggs Thompson, Manager, Environmental Management Group
Michel Therrien, Environmental Project Coordinator, Environmental Management Group
Elena Suarez, Environmental Specialist, Environmental Management Group
Amanda Tolbert, Assistant County Attorney
Lisa Totten, Broward County Parks and Recreation

**Guest:**
Andrea Knowles Hill, Assistant Director, Intergovernmental Affairs/Boards Section

**Public Input:** None.

**Old Business:**
**Approval of Minutes from the May 15, 2024, Meeting:** Marcey Carabelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2024, meeting and Ken Evans seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Logo Update**
Michel Therrien explained the need to simplify the logo for better usability across different formats. Mr. Therrien recommended starting fresh with a new logo design, which is being created by marketing, that is less busy and can be easily converted to black and white. The members discussed the need for a simpler logo and agreed to wait for the next meeting to review the new options.

**Status of Sites to Add to Inventory**

Linda Briggs Thompson provided an update on Cullum Dome. Ms. Briggs Thompson advised that, although it was frequently mentioned in County notes and acquisition lists, it has not been contemplated for designation or added to the inventory. As a reminder, the Cullum Dome, located off Lyons Road, is a cypress dome and the surrounding area which was previously agricultural and is being developed into homes. Efforts have been ongoing to get it added to the Parks Inventory through the plat process. The County is still working on some infrastructure details like adding a boardwalk and a rehydration pump. The goal is for the contractors to build this as part of the development to keep costs lower. Meetings are ongoing, and it looks promising that it will soon be added to the Parks Inventory. The members agree to wait until the site is further along in the process before scheduling a site visit.

Ms. Briggs Thompson advised that in the next period they will be working on sites to add to the inventory, the step before designation.

**Deerfield Island Site Visit Rescheduling**

Elena Suarez updated the board regarding the Deerfield Island site visit, which was postponed to January 9, 2025, due to ongoing renovations and lack of public access on the island. Corey Callaghan requested a backup date be brought to the December meeting, in the event that the January 9, 2025 date does not work for all of the members.

**New Business:**

**2024 Sunset Review Presentation:**

Linda Briggs Thompson introduced Andrea Knowles Hill from Intergovernmental Affairs to present on the Sunset Review process. Ms. Knowles Hill explained the Sunset Review process, which occurs every four years to review boards not in the charter to ensure they are still serving their intended purpose. Ms. Knowles Hill mentions that this board is doing well and there is no need for changes, suggesting a motion to retain the board as is. Ken Evans and Marcey Carabelli express their support for the board, highlighting its professionalism and educational value.

Ken Evans made a motion to retain the board as is, which is seconded by Marcey Carabelli and approved unanimously.

**Board Membership:**

Linda Briggs Thompson raised the issue of vacancies on the board, with three positions needing to be filled. Chair Callaghan and other members discuss potential commissioners to approach for reappointments. The members emphasizes the importance of reappointing current members to ensure continuity and expertise on the board. Ken Evans suggests reaching out to potential candidates and the members agrees to explore these options.

**Section Update**
Michel Therrien presented the section update, highlighting various projects and initiatives, including progress of the West Lake mitigation project, and pilot plantings of seagrass and ongoing invasive vegetation removal. He also discussed the invasive species removal at Deerfield Island, gopher tortoise surveys, burrowing owl surveys, and the possibility of a prescribed fire at Long Key. He also gave an update on the Tree Tops wetland mitigation project, which involves removing invasive species and creating a new wetland.

Mr. Therrien discussed the rehydration pumps at various preserves, including Trade Winds North and South, Warbler Wetland, and Kristin Jacobs Natural Area. He discussed the challenges and progress of the rehydration pump projects, including the need for manual systems and new pumps.

Mr. Therrien discussed the multi-agency projects, including Delevoe Drainage improvements and Secret Woods reconstruction. Ms. Briggs Thompson provided an update on Sunview drainage improvements and a land swap between Quiet Waters Park and the Turnpike Sawgrass Extension.

Mr. Therrien mentioned the 4H greenhouse agreement with UF and Fairchild, which aims to grow rare plants for restoration projects. He highlighted the importance of the greenhouse project in providing educational opportunities for 4H kids and growing rare plant species.

Mr. Therrien highlighted the activities of the naturalists, including yoga classes, invasive species removal, and collaborations with local schools and libraries.

**Next Meeting:**
Linda Briggs Thompson proposed moving the meeting location back to the Administration building for convenience and better access to IT support. The board discussed the pros and cons of both meeting locations, with some members preferring the Administration building for its convenience.

The group agrees to move the meetings back to the Administration Offices and confirms the next meeting date as December 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.