**Urban Wilderness Advisory Board**
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2023
Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium, Main Building Conference Room
3700 NW 11th Place, Lauderhill, FL 33311

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

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

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

**Staff:**
Linda Briggs Thompson, Manager, Environmental Management Group
Cheri Gagné, Broward County Parks and Recreation
Michel Therrien, Environmental Project Coordinator, Environmental Management Group.

**Public Input:** NONE

**Old Business:**
**Approval of Minutes from the September 13, 2023, Meeting:** Diana Guidry made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 13, 2023, meeting and Corey Callaghan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Status of Sites to Add to Inventory:** Linda Briggs Thompson stated that staff had meetings with four cities about adding sites to the Inventory or the full Urban Wilderness designation. The cities were Wilton Manors, Parkland, Coral Springs, and Coconut Creek. Ms. Briggs Thompson reported that Wilton Manors, Parkland, and Coral Springs were supportive of listing the sites that they either own or manage, but Coconut Creek was not interested in listing their sites. Ms. Briggs Thompson continued that sites can be listed without city approval, but Parks administration may not be in support of that.

Dr. Callaghan asked if there was a reason Coconut Creek was not interested and Ms. Briggs Thompson replied that the city did not want anything hindering projects on the land they are responsible for. Discussion was had about adding sites to the Urban Wilderness Park System, the process, and future municipalities to be contacted.

Ms. Briggs Thompson requested that all Board members and staff introduce themselves since Brian Rosen was a new member. All Board members and staff provided a brief introduction.

**Logo Update:** Ms. Briggs Thompson presented Urban Wilderness logo options to the Board created by one of the Environmental Specialists on staff. She stated that these options are a starting point and can be altered as the Board sees fit and the logo could be used on signs and literature. Discussion was had about alterations that could be made to the different logo options such as including wildlife, easier to read fonts, sign materials, uniform text colors, and if Broward County should be included on the sign. Board members agreed that the bottom right option as presented was the best logo.

Ken Evans made a motion for staff to take Board member comments and provided updated options for the logo and Dr. Callaghan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Board Membership:** Ms. Briggs Thompson reported that there are two vacancies on the Board and are for the commissioner Beam Furr and Robert McKinzie. She added that Paul Callsen may be removed due to absences.

**Section Update:** Michel Therrien announced that otters have been spotted at Shooster. Mr. Therrien provided an update on the West Lake mitigation project, restoration projects, and monitoring and surveying. He also reviewed agreements, amendments, grants, and other projects. Mr. Therrien presented some newly created GIS maps as well as photos from naturalist programs.

**Additional New Business:**

Land Acquisition: Dr. Callaghan stated that he is aware of a large piece of undeveloped land that is privately owned and is most likely for sale. Ms. Briggs Thompson stated that one of the tasks of the Board is to flag land that should be acquired and placed into the Urban Wilderness Park System. Dr. Callaghan stated that now is a good time to ask to acquire the land. Discussion was had about the parcels, including size, location, ecosystem, timing, and potential wetland mitigation. Ms. Briggs Thompson suggested contacting their commissioners or drafting a letter to the Parks and Recreation Division director on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Callaghan made a motion that he draft a letter on behalf of the Board to Parks and Recreation Director Dan West to investigate potential acquisition of the parcels under discussion and Mr. Rosen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Meeting Schedule: Ms. Briggs Thompson reviewed the proposed 2024 Urban Wilderness Advisory Board meeting schedule with the Board. She noted that the February and May meetings can not be held at Central Broward due to the cricket world cup, but could be held at the Parks administration building.

Vice-Chair Evans made a motion to approve the proposed 2024 meeting schedule with the February and May meetings being held at the Parks administration building. Dr. Callaghan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** February 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.