Urban Wilderness Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 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 6:08 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:
Marcella Carabelli
Ken Evans
Roberto Fernández, III
Diana Guidry

Staff:
Linda Briggs Thompson, Manager, Environmental Management Group
Cheri Gagné, Broward County Parks and Recreation
Michael Owens, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Elena Suarez, Natural Resources Specialist, Environmental Management Group
Michel Therrien, Senior Natural Resources Specialist, Environmental Management Group
Amanda Tolbert, Assistant County Attorney

Public Input: NONE

Board Attorney: Linda Briggs Thompson reported that Michael Owens was stepping down as the Board attorney and Amanda Tolbert would be the new Board attorney. Mr. Owens was thanked for all his work he has done with the Board. Mr. Owens stated that it has been a pleasure working with the Board and deeply respects the Board and staff.

Old Business:
Approval of Minutes from the February 15, 2023, Meeting: Vice-Chair Ken Evans made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 15, 2023, meeting and Diana Guidry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Reports of Site Visits: Ms. Briggs Thompson read the site assessment reports for West Lake Units A-E, Snake Warrior's Island, and Tree Tops Natural Areas to the Board from their February 25, 2023, site visits. Ms. Briggs Thompson provided an update that the strangler fig at Tree Tops had been removed and the reason the lake was not connected at Snake Warrior's Island was to protect the water and grasses.

Marcella Carabelli made a motion to start the process of adding West Lake Units A-E, Snake Warrior's Island, and Tree Tops Natural Areas to the Urban Wilderness Inventory and Ms. Guidry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Sites to Add to Inventory: Ms. Briggs Thompson reported that the Board had visited all the sites that had previously been discussed and staff would now be working towards designating those sites to the Urban Wilderness Inventory.

New Business:

Board Membership: Ms. Briggs Thompson reported that there are currently four vacancies on the Board and there was one applicant recently sent to Commissioner Tim Ryan. The applicant and application process were discussed.

Chair Roberto Fernández, III made a motion for Vice-Chair Evans to contact Commissioner Ryan's staff on behalf of the Board to move the application forward. Ms. Carabelli seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Fernández inquired if the Board would like to hold elections for the chair position and the Board replied that they did not want to hold elections.

Section Update: Mr. Therrien provided an update on agreements, amendments, and grants for the Environmental Management Group. He provided an overview of current and upcoming restoration projects as well as current monitoring and surveying projects. Mr. Therrien also reviewed naturalist outreach projects.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.