Urban Wilderness Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Parks and Recreation Division Administration Offices
Cypress Conference Room
950 NW 38th Street
Oakland Park, FL 33309

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM

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

Board Members Present:
Corey Callaghan
Marcey Carabelli
Ken Evans
Roberto Fernandez, III
Diana Guidry
Brian Rosen

Staff:
Linda Briggs Thompson, Manager, Environmental Management Group
Michel Therrien, Environmental Project Coordinator, Environmental Management Group
Lisa Totten, Administrative Assistant, Broward County Parks and Recreation

Guests: None.

Public Input: None.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2024, Meeting: Roberto Fernandez made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2024, meeting and Brian Rosen seconded. The minutes are approved unanimously.

Logo Update

Linda Briggs Thompson and Michel Therrien discussed the logo, mentioning that marketing has been working on it. Mr. Therrien presented various logo designs, noting that some were deemed too busy for certain uses, like letterhead. The members discuss the merits and drawbacks of different designs, including the use of buildings, trees, and wildlife. Discussion included the idea of using a native fern or a cabbage palm as a stylized element. The group decided to combine elements from different designs, emphasizing more wilderness and fewer buildings. The group

discussed the importance of the logo being recognizable and adaptable for various uses, including signs and letterhead. The members agreed on the idea of including palm trees. Ken Evans made a motion to change the logo to half urban, half trees and forest, take off the windows from the buildings, and to bring the logo back for review by the Board. Diana Guidry seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Status of Sites to Add to Inventory

Linda Briggs Thompson provided an update on the status of sites to add to the inventory, mentioning that they are meeting monthly with an Assistant County Attorney to expedite the process. There are 11 sites that are almost ready to be added to the inventory, and six sites that are nearly ready for designation. Three sites have survey issues that need to be addressed legally, including Long Key, Dania Salt Marsh, and Pond Apple Slough.

Deerfield Island Site Visit and USDA Invasive Plant Research Lab Tour

The group scheduled a site visit to Deerfield Island for January 9, with a rainy-day date of January 16. The USDA invasive plant research lab tour is scheduled for January 27.

New Business:

Board Membership: Linda Briggs Thompson and Chair Callaghan discussed the need for Chair Callaghan to be reappointed by another Commissioner before May. Ms. Briggs Thompson suggested reaching out to the new Commissioner Davis. Chair Callaghan said he will reach out to Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Geller. Ms. Briggs Thompson reminded the members that they do not have to live in the same district as the Commissioners, although they do have to be Broward County residents.

Section Update

Michel Therrien provided an update on various projects, including mitigation efforts at West Lake and invasive species treatments. Specific projects mentioned included the 4-H partnership, shorebird nesting platform at West Lake, and the success of night hikes at Saw Palmetto.

Mr. Therrien discussed the upcoming Living With Coyotes event with FWC taking place at Plantation Heritage on December 10, 2024.

The status of the West Lake mitigation was described. Native plants were installed next to the Anne Kolb Nature Center parking lot. The crib structure is being constructed behind the newly created seagrass areas. Island 2, located on the second to the furthest north island, will feature unique species and become a tree island, unlike the other islands which will be excavated to sea grass islands.

Active invasive treatments are currently being undertaken on the south side of Fern Forest. A prescribed fire was carried out in April of this year, marking two years since the last burn. Invasive species are being managed as they emerge. A drone photo taken by Erik Eckles from the team captures the progress.

Successful invasive species management is ongoing at Woodmont, Miramar Pineland, Herman and Dorothy Shooster Preserve, Deerfield Highlands, and Highlands Scrub. At Military Trail, preparations are underway for a prescribed burn planned for January or February.

The contract for invasive species management, funded by FWC at Fern Forest was completed. A check of the treatment is still required, but almost the entire site of Fern Forest has been treated for hardwoods and most invasives. Additionally, preparations are underway for proposals for the 2025 season through the Master Agreement.

Ms. Briggs-Thompson described new interpretive signs that were installed at Long Key, including the Pioneer City sign.

Additional New Business:

Ms. Guidry inquired about the William J. Kelley Rookery. Ms. Briggs-Thompson explained that the William J. Kelley Rookery has not functioned as a rookery for many years. Its primary purpose now is water management for Broward County. The area features a barrow pit with unique fish and a viewing platform open to the public, with parking available. Development surrounds the site, but it has a wetland mitigation area that was constructed to facilitate the development entrance. Although it is no longer an active rookery, it remains a Broward County Park site. It is not an Urban Wilderness site. Ms. Guidry inquired about the dock, and Ms. Briggs-Thompson explains it is an overlook with cleared views and new plantings.

Mr. Fernandez inquired about adding it to the Urban Wilderness designation. Mr. Fernandez also inquired about accessing the other side of the site, and Ms. Briggs Thompson discussed potential access points and mentioned a gate and the rough condition of the path, which might be impassable during the rainy season. Mr. Fernandez made a motion to schedule a visit to the site for potential inclusion in the Urban Wilderness, and it was seconded by Mr. Rosen. Chair Callaghan proposed discussing potential visit dates in February, with a tentative visit in May or June.

Roberto Fernandez made a motion for staff to follow up on the Miramar site during the February meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Evans.

2025 Meeting Schedule:

The members reviewed and approved the proposed meeting schedule for 2025, adjusting dates to avoid conflicts. The finalized meeting schedule is February 19, May 21, September 10, and December 10, 2025, all at 6:00 PM in the current location.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.