Urban Wilderness Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 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 6:03 p.m.

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

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

Staff:
Linda Briggs Thompson, Manager, Environmental Management Group
Cheri Gagné, Broward County Parks and Recreation

Public Input: NONE

Old Business:
Approval of Minutes from the December 7, 2023, Meeting: Diana Guidry made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 7, 2023, meeting and Paul Callsen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Reports of Site Visits: Linda Briggs Thompson reported that the site visits that were scheduled for February 4, 2023, had been canceled. Ms. Briggs Thompson read the site assessment forms for Tradewinds Park, Central Broward Park, Markham Park, and Everglades Holiday Park to the Board from their January 7, 2023, site visits.

Mr. Callsen made a motion to add the natural areas in Tradewinds Park, Central Broward Park, Markham Park, and Everglades Holiday Park to the Urban Wilderness Inventory and Marcella Carabelli seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Sites to Add to Inventory: Ms. Briggs Thompson reported that there are three sites that the Board wanted to visit: West Lake, Snake Warrior's Island, and Tree Tops. There was discussion on when to do the next site visit as well as utilizing Zoom so that Ms. Guidry could attend remotely since she would be unable to attend in person due to injuries.

Ms. Carabelli made a motion to do a site visit for West Lake, Tree Tops, and Snake Warrior's Island on February 25, 2023, and Mr. Callsen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Board Membership: Ms. Briggs Thompson stated that there are currently four vacancies on the Board. She added that Mr. Fernández also needs to be reappointed. Mr. Fernández reported that he spoke to a biology teacher that may be interested in joining the Board and Ms. Carabelli stated she would try to recruit Board members from Broward College.

Section Update: Ms. Briggs Thompson provided the Environmental Management Group section update. Agreements and amendments that are in progress include the West Lake segment four mitigation, the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden renewal agreement, the Tree Tops and Long Key wetland mitigation, the Guy Harvey Foundation, the Native Landscaping Policy, and the Central Broward owl contract. Restoration projects are currently in progress at Highlands Scrub, Hollywood North Beach, Deerfield Island, Willow Pond, Tradewinds, Fern Forest, and Military Trail. Monitoring and surveys include the small mammal survey preparation, photo monitoring, burrowing owl surveys, and monarch and queen butterfly tagging and testing. Interpretive signs at Central Broward and Deerfield Island are in the final stages. Rehydration projects are in different phases at Tradewinds, Willow Pond, and Warbler Wetland. Naturalist projects include programming, renovating a free little library, and filming a Wildlife Wednesday segment on gopher tortoises.

Additional New Business: Ms. Briggs Thompson provided an update on the Miramar Athletic Park Addition site that the Board had previously visited. She reported that Paul Krashefski had emailed her stating that Miramar is working on delineating the site limits and will meet again once the boundaries are determined.

Mr. Fernández requested Ken Evans' assistance with being reappointed and Mr. Evans' stated that he would contact Commissioner Hazelle Rogers on Mr. Fernández's behalf.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.