Urban Wilderness Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 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 6:17 p.m.

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

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

Staff:
Cheri Gagné, Broward County Parks and Recreation
Elena Suarez, Environmental Specialist, Environmental Management Group
Michel Therrien, Environmental Project Coordinator, Environmental Management Group

New Board member Corey Callaghan introduced himself as an assistant professor at the University of Florida and generally studies urban ecology and human utility of green spaces. Dr. Callaghan continued that he is primarily a researcher and programmer for citizen science as well as a birder.

Public Input: NONE

Old Business:
Approval of Minutes from the May 17, 2023, Meeting: Marcella Carabelli made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 17, 2023, meeting and Diana Guidry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Thrips Update: Elena Suarez provided an update on the thrips that were released at Broward County Parks as a biocontrol tool for Brazilian pepper. Ms. Suarez stated that they were released at Tree Tops and Markham Park. She continued that while it will not fully eradicate Brazilian pepper, it will help control the growth. Ms. Suarez reported that thrips were established at 35% of the sites they were released at in Broward and were also spreading to neighboring areas.

Status of Sites to Add to Inventory: Cheri Gagné reported that informal notification letters were sent to the four municipalities of Coconut Creek, Coral Springs, Parkland, and Wilton Manors to inform them that properties that they either own or manage were being considered for inclusion on the Urban Wilderness Inventory or Urban Wilderness Park System. These sites include Winston Park Preserve, Lyons Creek Preserve, and Oak Trails Park in Coconut Creek; Tall Cypress Natural Area, Red Lichen Sanctuary, Woodside Estates Park, and Fern Glen Park in Coral Springs; the

Parkland Greenaway, Holmberg Road Natural Area, and Doris Davis Forman Wildlife Preserve in Parkland; and the Richardson House in Wilton Manors. Ms. Gagné reported that they have meetings scheduled with Coral Springs, Coconut Creek, and Wilton Manors in the next two weeks. Dr. Callaghan asked if the site across the street would be included with the Richardson House and Ms. Gagné replied that she would investigate and get back to him.

Ms. Guidry inquired if there was a location where the public could see what sites have the Urban Wilderness designation. Ms. Gagné replied that it is written into the Broward County ordinance. Discussion was had about ways in which to better inform the public about the Urban Wilderness designated sites and process. Chair Roberto Fernández, III made a motion to investigate creating an Urban Wilderness logo or graphic to publicly promote the Urban Wilderness status of designated sites and Vice Chair Ken Evan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Board Membership: Michel Therrien reported that there are three vacancies on the Board and are: District 1 – Nan Rich, District 6 – Beam Furr, and District 8 – Robert McKinzie. Ms. Gagné added that there is an applicant whose application is with Nan Rich's office, but has not yet been appointed. Chair Fernández made a motion for Vice Chair Evans to contact Nan Rich's office on behalf of the Board to move the application forward for Brian Rosen and Ms. Carabelli seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Section Update: Mr. Therrien provided an update on agreements, amendments, grants, and other projects for the Environmental Management Group. He presented an overview of the improvements to the US 27 boat ramp. Mr. Therrien continued with an update on current and upcoming restoration projects as well as current monitoring and surveying projects. He reported that Fairchild provided a two-day grass identification workshop for staff. Mr. Therrien also reviewed the naturalist Nature Tots program.

Chair Fernández requested an update on the status of the Miramar Athletic Park Addition site for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: December 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.