



Nature & Environment Committee

Minutes for April 16, 2009 Meeting

Attendees:

Chair: Dick Townsend

Gene Tinnie

Guy Forchion

Mark Walters

Ken Llewellyn

Rob Blount

Gary Milano

Bob Weinreb

Sam Van Veer

The Nature and Environment committee met April 16, 2009 - 6:03pm

Approval of past minutes was deferred.

The Nature and environment committee's agenda was full centering on several project updates.

Agenda Item: Coastal Dune Construction – Wesley Cinch, DEP came to the Trust today and provided a DEP permit to do shoreline repair to prep for coastal dune project. The permit lets the Trust collapse scarps on the shoreline before machinery mobilization.

Gary Milano: following a successful meeting with the Trust, DERM and the City of Miami to assess COM resource to perform the coastal dune construction. Survey crew from DERM will be on the property May 6th, 2009 to lay out the project; the COM will be on site with loaders and dump trucks May 11th 2009.

There are some concerns raised by the Trust staff and COM staff with building a dune system on the Western end of the beach property. An on site walk through meeting would be a good next course of action. All over shoreline erosion was

discussed. Flexibility in the building process is available. Project should finish on or around June 15, 2009 – should not affect the Juneteenth event.

Planting, post and rope, and bulldozer resources are needed from the Trust. Planting the dune shortly after the dune is structured is best to fight off weeds; plant during the following months August & September are good.
Action: The committee will walk the site during its next meeting.

Agenda Item: NOAA Grant – some discussion took place on the NOAA grant award and how quickly funds could be spent. Gary Milano shared funding techniques from the County aspect; Bob Weinreb shared the financial perspective from the COM to mobilize quickly. Trust staff, committee members, Milano, Weinreb all discussed how to access NOAA stimulus funds and move forward on the dune project with those funds on the May 11th 2009 start date.

CIP will run the NOAA grant financials, checks and balances, etc.; the Trust is listed as the NOAA grant Project Manager. Plan B is to access the ACOE Section 1135 funds if the NOAA grant does not get awarded to the COM/Trust.

Agenda Item: Army Corps of Engineers Section 1135- Bob Weinreb said the COM is placing the PPA agreement between the COM and ACOE on the City of Miami commission agenda; the agreement was approved by COM legal and has been forwarded to the Corps in Atlanta. The NOAA grant would do much of the work the ACOE 1135 is designed to complete.

Agenda Item: Buoy Line – Update by Guy Forchion: detailed explanation of the progress of the buoy line applications for the Trust and COM, detailed outline of the specific issues identified by DERM were given, solutions for responding to all of the issues from DERM was given. A meeting with DERM is schedule for the following Monday morning with the Trust/COM consultant Challenger Enterprises.

To combat the jet ski problem on HVKBP solutions were offered, banning any car with a trailer, charging more for entry to vehicles with trailers attached, etc. The discussion generally ended with the understanding that the installation of the future buoy line system would end the jet ski problem currently associated with HVKBP.

Agenda Item: Trail System and Trails Grant – Short presentation reviewing the GPS developed trail system plan from Gary Milano; committee consensus came on creating non-winding and confusing trail paths, changing the layout of some trails that had inter-connecting pathways that could be confusing and posed the threat of getting children lost on the trail system, eliminating trail connectors that inter-faced with the “bike trail” and integrating the entire trail plan with the possible successful award of a trails grant that identified a 12 ft wide mixed used trail system.

Pay special attention to signage that would control and interpret the use of the varying trail systems. This would help create a safe and enjoyable environment.

There was some short discussion and the upcoming Baynanza April 18, 2009, activities at the park and the Trust's "Green" event FISY Fest April 25, 2009.

Gary Milano gave a brief report on the construction of the foot bridge on the Northern end of the Trust property: May 1, 2009 creation of contract documents, May 2-17, 2009 Pre-bid meetings and bidding process, May 17, 2009 contract award, May 18, 2009 Notice to Proceed, May 25 – July 8, 2009 construction period, July 8, 2009 project completion.

A special issue came forward regarding the unauthorized removal of Poison Wood Trees on the park property; this discussion sparked the need and recommendation to research the creation of policy guidelines for all natural elements and inventory on the historic beach park property.

Committee members engaged in an open discussion centering on improved communications between the committee, trust staff, trustees, volunteers and the community at large.

Meeting adjourned 10:45pm. The next scheduled meeting is May 21, 2009, 6:00pm.