



Nature & Environment Committee

Minutes for May 21, 2009 Meeting

Attendees:

Chair: Dick Townsend

Gene Tinnie

Guy Forchion

Mark Walters

Ken Llewellyn

Gary Milano

Bob Weinreb

Sam Van Veer

The Nature and Environment committee met May 21, 2009 - 6:00pm

Approval of past minutes was deferred.

The Nature and Environment Committee's agenda was consisted of several project updates and a walking tour of the park property.

Agenda Item: Coastal Dune Construction – Guy Forchion, Gary Milano: gave a general update on the progress of the coastal dune, heavy equipment for the City of Miami had started work May 11, 2009 as scheduled; it was understood that the committee would tour the shoreline construction site during the meeting. It was recommended that future dune restoration signs be in three languages.

Gene Tinnie and Sam Van Leer both gave short briefings on their recount of the EDSA Virginia Key Master Plan public meeting held the day before.

There was a recommendation to the committee by Gary Milano to develop in the near future an overall environmental management plan for HVKBP. Sam Van Leer and Ken Llewellyn both agreed to participate in that management process and to possibly create an exotic vegetation control sub-committee or effort. Dick Townsend, committee chair recommended the creation of a botanical sub-committee of the Nature & Environment committee.

Agenda Item: Army Corps of Engineers Section 1135 – Bob Weinreb gave a brief update on the status of the Section 1135 grant. The City commission approved acceptance of the grant project and is now awaiting further direction from the Corps regarding additional criteria the City must fulfill to complete the agreement.

Townsend, committee chair, stressed the important of formalizing the policy guidelines behind committee membership, committee member voting, attendance, committee ethics, conflicts of interest and vested interests, policies and procedures to build a proper committee rules structure for committee integrity.

Townsend introduced the need for the Trust to remain involved with the EEP and its membership; he stressed the benefit of remaining a member of the EEP and providing the necessary dues needed (\$500) either through the Trust, fundraising activities, etc.

The committee introduced the need for the Nature and Environment committee to have its own line item budget or budgetary appropriations for related equipment and other items.

The committee toured the shoreline areas and reviewed the construction progress of the coastal dune project. Gene Tinnie had a conflicting previously schedule meeting and did not participate in the shoreline tour. There was some mixed discussion on the length, height and location of the western dune, the impact the dune would have on current picnic areas, the impact the dune would have on the future shoreline promenade, the need to move two barbeque grills, the need to raise the elevation of a far west section of the property to reduce rain run off damage and other features.

At the end of the tour and related discussion participating committee members unanimously agreed that the restoration of the westernmost portion of the dune system was necessary and appropriate. The agreed upon design height for the restored dune was 2.5 feet. It was further agreed that the planned dune system would be compatible with a contiguous, scenic, and pedestrian-friendly esplanade.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm. The next scheduled meeting is June 18, 2009, 6:00pm.