



## **Nature & Environment Committee**

### **Minutes for June 18, 2009 Meeting**

**Attendees:**

**Chair: Dick Townsend**

**Guy Forchion**

**Mark Walters**

**Gary Milano**

**Robert Blunt**

The Nature and Environment committee met June 18, 2009 - 6:08pm

Approvals of past minutes (April 14, 2009 and May 21, 2009) were deferred. The committee members will approve the minutes via email before the July 6, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting.

The Nature and Environment Committee's agenda consisted of three discussion items and a walking tour of the park property.

**Discussion Item: EDSA Virginia Key Master Plan** – Chairman Townsend initiated discussion regarding the EDSA Virginia Key master plan and the following topics; its excessive number of parking lots; over build concrete construction; potential traffic problems and island over crowding; lack of public input involved in the plan and the isolation of the Trust property from the master plan. Gary Milano included the lack of EDSA's plan for public boat launching areas and over sized boat slips in the marina area.

The Jimbo's fishing camp area with planned kayaking and canoeing was discussed along with overall positives and negatives of the plan.

Trustee Walters informed the committee of the opportunity for the donation of several canoes to the Trust.

**Discussion Item: Committee Structure** – The committee engaged in discussion surrounding the creation of several rules and policies for committee such as: determining membership addition and removal, member voting requirements, ethical standards, public service to the committee/Trust standards, absentee standards, committee size, and possible creation of a botanical sub-committee and an exotic vegetation removal and control committee.

Gary Milano brought up discussion concerning the creation of a Historic beach park management plan to provide some helpful guidelines for maintaining the beach park natural vegetation. There was general agreement among the committee to develop an environmental management plan. Members were charged with gathering existing environmental management plans for the September 17, 2009 committee meeting.

**Discussion Item: Natural Historic Signage** – Chairman Townsend requested a general update on the progress of the park signage planned for use on the historic beach park. Robert Blount, Museum Director, provided a detailed presentation of the signage plan developed by Haley Sharpe Design for the historic and natural areas of the park. There was extensive discussion regarding number of signs, locations of signage, grade level comprehension of the text, amount of text, style of signs, size and scale of signs, content, facts, and the overall content and display methodology.

The committee will be involved in the content and location of the interpretive signage as Mr. Blount and Haley Sharpe Design move forward with that process.

The committee discussed clearing the interpretive nature trail areas to begin the process of identifying the location of the paths through the future hardwood hammock. It was generally agreed to proceed with the clearing of the “bike path” areas first.

The walking tour portion of the meeting was cancelled.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm. The next scheduled meeting is July 17, 2009, 6:00pm.