



Nature & Environment Committee

Minutes for June 19, 2006 Meeting

Attendees:

Chair: Dick Townsend

David Shorter, ED

Gene Tinnie

Guy Forchion

Mark Walters

Miguel Germain

The Nature and Environment committee met June 19, 2006 - 6:05pm

The Nature and Environment committee meets jointly with the Planning and construction committee. Following the Planning and Construction portion of the meeting (See Planning and Construction Committee June 19, 2006 minutes)

The Nature and environment committee's discussion centered on a general update of the progress being made in the Trust's negotiations with the City of Miami Parks and Recreation Department.

It is understood at this time that City Parks will provide grounds keeping services for the beach park begin October 1, 2006. These services would include grass cutting, tree trimming, shore line tilling and clean up, regular trash and garbage pick-up schedules. The projected re-opening of the beach park in the Spring of 2007 would also include the City of Miami providing life guards where needed, some park supervision and security staff.

There was discussion on the creation of Environmental Guidelines for the Park which would include mapping and documenting sensitive natural areas on the park; taping - audio and video – of the natural areas, special uses, potentials, resources, unique landscapes, education opportunities, etc. These oral discussions would be done by Friends of Virginia Key, environmentalist, naturalist, etc. to be used later in the museum on Virginia Key Beach Park.

There is a desire to host environmental events on the park property to expose it to our environmental partners and community. The Environmental Education Providers Group is one potential meeting that could be hosted by the Trust on the Virginia Key Beach Park property. There is also a Museum of Science Summer Camp that may be able to partner with the Trust.

Trust staff is making progress with local volunteer organizations to assist in shore line clean up, debris clean up and exotic plant removal.

On Friday, June 16th approximately 50 volunteers with **Citizens for a better South Florida** provided shore line and debris clean up services.

Hands on Miami is scheduled to assist with approximately 100 volunteers on Saturday, August 26th and Saturday November 4th. The Trust is also hoping to recruit volunteer support from the **Hands on Miami** for our Saturday, August 19th **"The Train is Coming!"** event. There are other volunteer gathering possibilities through "Mary Cummings", Friends of Virginia Key and the MAST Academy school volunteer campaign.

Meeting adjourned 7:52pm. The next scheduled meeting is September 18, 2006, 6:00pm.