

MINUTES

GRAHAM CREEK NATURE PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD

407 E. LAUREL AVENUE

FOLEY, ALABAMA

CONFERENCE ROOM

JUNE 4, 2015

5:30 P.M.

MEETING

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Zana Price called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Members present: Tommy Patterson, Chad Watkins and Phillip Hinesley. Absent: Greg Knight, Tim Closson and Homer Singleton. Others present: Vickey Southern, Jackie Trimble and Samantha Daniells.

MINUTES

Approve Minutes of May 7, 2015

Mr. Patterson made a motion to approve the May 7, 2015 minutes as submitted. Mr. Hinesley seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Samantha Daniells – Ms. Trimble introduced Samantha “Sam” Daniells, who is an intern from Legacy and will be working with them through the end of July. Sam will be helping out with summer camps, field trips, and working on an educational workshop based off bird and plant species. She will be presenting the results of the workshop after it is completed but they don’t have a date yet and she will need to have an audience. In with the workshop she will be doing a lot of field observations and photography.

Sam attends school at Auburn University in the Engineering Department and is working toward a degree as a Biosystems Engineer. Her hometown is Huntsville, Alabama. Chairman Price welcomed her to Foley and offered her assistance should she need anything.

Ms. Trimble also reported that Ms. Morgan Wills is also another intern who will be working with the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch during the summer months. You might see Morgan at the GCNP because she will be helping there as well. She is originally from Kansas.

GUESTS

Friends of Graham Creek – Ms. Trimble reported she finally obtained a mailing address for Ms. Donna Turbyfill and mailed her a letter containing a list of supplies that are needed for the Preserve’s outdoor classroom and field trips.

They are also gathering funds but many of the members have been out of town tending with personal matters. Ms. Turbyfill will be in attendance next month.

Mr. Patterson reported that he saw on Facebook that GCNP needs an "art board". Ms. Trimble reported the art board is a piece of clear plexi-glass framed with 2"x4" and posted into the ground. Children can finger paint on it because it is weather resistant, won't shatter, and sealed. It is located in the Nature Explore catalog but it lists for over \$2,000. She would like to see if she can get some wholesale material and have some local carpenters donate their time and skill set to build and install.

Ms. Trimble also indicated they would like to have water and sand tables. They are hollow and the tops open so you can have sand and dirt in them. There is another one has a water proof lining so that water can be added. If she had the tables on Observe and Explore days it would be easier to show the children how sedimentation rates work. If you have a water table that has different types of soil, you can let a 6 year old do the experiment. They are expensive but they do last a while and would be integrated into their educational programs.

Mr. Patterson asked if there were any problems with vandalism. Ms. Trimble reported they have not had any problems so far. The gate off Roscoe Road and the cattle gate are chained and padlocked at night and they will be getting new electric fences at both entrances. The gate at the kayak launch, outdoor classroom, pavilion and restrooms are open until they get the new electric fences.

NEW BUSINESS: There is none to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Interpretive Center (Design Details) – Ms. Trimble reported Ms. Gahagan has contacted a company that does displays for nature preserves, museums, and education centers. They detail the design specific to your location and will do the center's focal piece when you walk into the Center. A Cypress Log with a recessed 100 gallon tank containing a couple of alligators from Alligator Alley will be the focal point as you walk into the center. Alligator Alley will take care of them and switch them out each year. There will be two (2) 50 gallon water tanks that will hold a banded water snake, a pine snake and a corn snake. The 25 gallon water tanks will hold a glass lizard or a skink and the other will be a turtle. A kid's corner will consist of a small library containing educational books, coloring books, games set up so that if they get tired of being outside they will have something to do. Chairman Price reported she has some books she could donate to their library. Ms. Trimble reported they also do lifelike images, i.e. moccasin located next to the tank with the banded water snake so it can be used as an educational tool.

Ms. Trimble reported the bids were let but they are waiting on some of the paper work to get signed before the ground breaking will take place.

Mr. Hinesley asked when the City's budget will be finalized. Mrs. Southern reported the supervisors are working on the budget now. Some of the items are due June 18th and the first pass before Council will be presented prior to the end of June. Their goal is to have the FY16 budget adopted in September. Mr. Hinesley reported Mrs. Gahagan will need to put funds into the budget for an ADA trail.

Chairman Price asked if it was true that a poisonous snake could fill their lungs with air and could swim across the water. Ms. Trimble reported all the venomous snakes can swim.

Ms. Trimble reported they can get snakes and skinks very inexpensively through Pet Station. She would rather have local ones and she would love to have any aquariums that people would donate. Mr. Hinesley reported the Critter Getter comes by their offices at Five Rivers and asks them if they want the corn snakes for their exhibits. Sometimes they put them in the aquariums and sometimes they let them go. She would like a juvenile snake so that it will get used to her as they get older. Corn snakes are relatively laid back.

Consider Resolution 8 Interpretive Center Hours of Operation

Ms. Trimble reported they want to start out Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to see what the public interest would be because they will need to get some volunteers to work.

Mr. Hinesley made a motion to approve the hours as proposed and Mr. Watkins seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Discuss ideas for Corpse Crawl and Haunted Forest

The Corpse Crawl is the third Saturday in October (October 17, 2015). This event is a fundraiser for the Foley High School Cross Country Team. They provide the location and the coordination and the Cross Country Team members are responsible for getting sponsors, prize packets, participants and volunteers. Last year was the first year and it went over well as they raised enough funds to pay for their uniforms. This year they hope to pay for the entry fees for all their races.

The following two weekends (October 23, 24, 30 and 31) will be the Haunted Forest on Friday and Saturday evenings. They will have two tractors pulling hay trailers with very high sides and seats built into the trailer. The route is already set up and it is similar to the 5K run. There will be six staged areas. Mr. Hinesley asked who would be doing the staged areas. Ms. Trimble reported that she and

Mrs. Gahagan will be at two of the areas plus an army of children that she gets to help. Mr. Hinesley reported he would love to do it. The South Baldwin Jaycees did the Haunted Forest in Elberta and it was great. Ms. Trimble further reported they will be getting some of the children from the High School's drama class to see if they will volunteer. They will be signing up volunteers.

Ms. Trimble reported they already have the theme's worked out and will divvy them out as people volunteered. They are all based off some historically accurate stories. The minimum age to volunteer is 15. Chairman Price reported in the Gulf Telephone Museum they have replicated John Snook's office exactly as it was when he was alive. It has all kinds of things.

Mr. Patterson reported Mrs. Gahagan was going to see about getting the planning maps on the website and he could not find it. Ms. Trimble was not sure and they have a new marketing team putting a new website together. Mr. Patterson requested to have the events listed on the website too.

REMINDERS

The next meeting will be July 2, 2015.

VISITOR COMMENTS: There were no visitor comments.

ADJOURN

Hearing no further comments Mr. Hinesley made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Patterson seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

/s/Victoria Southern, CMC
Recording Secretary