

Environmental Science Forum (ESF)
Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center
Thursday, June 7, 2007

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by Forum at July 12, 2007 Meeting

Attendees:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| 1. | Ms. Darden Rice | Forum Member, Co-Chair |
| 2. | Ms. Holly Greening | Forum Member, Co-Chair |
| 3. | Mr. Howard Rutherford | Forum Member |
| 4. | Mr. Ray Wunderlich | Forum Member |
| 5. | Mr. David Bruzek | Forum Member (Alternate for Tom Muntz) |
| 6. | Dr. Gabriel Vargo | Forum Member |
| 7. | Mr. Joe Maier | Forum Member |
| 8. | Ms. Cathy Harrelson | Forum Member |
| 9. | Dr. Randy Runnels | Forum Member |
| 10. | Mr. Mark Mueller | Forum Member |
| 11. | Ms. Barbara Hoffman | Forum Member |
| 12. | Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck | Forum Member |
| 13. | Ms. Ann Paul | Forum Member |
| 14. | Mr. Jake Stowers | Forum Member |
| 15. | Mr. William Davis | Pinellas County Environmental Mgmt. |
| 16. | Mr. Andy Squires | Pinellas County Environmental Mgmt. |
| 17. | Dr. H. Bruce Rinker | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 18. | Dr. Steve Harper | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 19. | Ms. Lisa Baltus | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 20. | Ms. Lynn Smith | Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division |
| 21. | Ms. Jewel Cole | County Attorney |
| 22. | Mr. Dennis Long | County Attorney |
| 23. | Mr. Gordan Beardslee | Planning Department |
| 24. | Mr. Devesh Nirmul | Extension Services |
| 25. | Mr. Tom Muntz | Citizen |
| 26. | Mr. Walt Hoskins | Citizen |
| 27. | Mr. Sidney Crawford | Citizen |
| 28. | Mr. Tom Reese | Citizen |
| 29. | Ms. Theresa Blackwell | <i>St. Pete Times</i> |
| 30. | Ms. Chris Claus | Citizen |

Hand outs: Draft minutes from the May 3, 2007 Forum meeting. Project Timelines For Pinellas County Environmental and Park Lands revision, List of Voting Members and Alternates for Environmental Science Forum update, Revision of ESF Bylaws; Ordinance NO. 07-, Environmental Science Forum's Summary of Findings and Recommendations for Parks and Environmental Lands Ordinance, County's draft ordinance of Sec. 2-147. Restrictions on the sale of county-owned parks and environmental lands, Environmental Land Use Subcommittee Report to ESF on June 7, 2007, Brooker Creek Preserve map.

I. Welcome and Introductions:

- Co-Chair Ms. Darden Rice welcomed Forum members and the public, reminding the public they may address agenda items by completing the appropriate form.
- Co-Chair Ms. Holly Greening took this opportunity to thank all who attended the Shell Key field trip and thanked staff for arranging it. She reminded staff to stick with the locations and times posted in the minutes so we don't leave people behind.

II. Additional Agenda Items:

- There were no additional agenda items at this time.

III. Approval of May 3, 2007 Meeting Minutes:

- Ms. Darden Rice had one correction submitted to her through e-mail from Ms. Barbara Hoffman to add the words "and existing" to page four Sec. 2-147(b)(1). The revised phrase should read "Restrict to minor and existing transportation issues only."
- Motion to accept the minutes with changes was made by Mr. Joe Maier and seconded by Mr. Howard Rutherford. Motion to accept carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Revised Bylaws:

- Ms. Holly Greening presented the revision that Mr. Howard Rutherford wrote following last month's Forum discussion concerning 4.6.a. of the ESF Bylaws. The revised Bylaw states "Action by the Forum shall only be taken at full Forum meetings where a simple majority of voting members is present." Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck made the motion to accept the revised wording of the Bylaws. Mr. Jake Stowers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Board of County Commission (BCC) Brooker Creek Preserve Workshops:

- Mr. Will Davis summarized the May 22, 2007 workshop with the BCC. They discussed three topics: 1. Options regarding the Blending Plant/Mixing Plant and the need to use the site for the plant, not recreational fields (workshop discussion by Pick Talley, County Utilities, and Jerry Maxwell with Tampa Bay Water). 2. Presentation of draft Environmental Land Ordinance (by Mr. Dennis Long, County Attorney). 3. Discussion concerning recreational field location options (by Paul Cozzie, Culture Education and Leisure Department). Mr. Davis indicated that Dennis Long will provide more details concerning item 2 to ESF today. He also indicated that the pine plantation remains a possible site, but there seems to be renewed interest in the Eastlake/Keystone Road site. The June 21,

2007 BCC workshop (2-4 p.m.) topics will include the ordinance, recreational field site locations/options, and the County's land use counterproposal to the Friends' "Preserve the Preserve" proposal.

VI. Revised Parks/Env. Lands Protection Ordinance:

- Mr. Dennis Long summarized the revised ordinance prepared by the County Attorney's Office. Mr. Long explained the BCC approval of the ordinance and instructed the County Attorney's Office to continue efforts to incorporate more of the ESF concerns into the final draft to bring to the June 21st BCC workshop. Forum members asked several questions. Their concerns focused on the exceptions not requiring a referendum (*Sec. 2-147*) and included:
 - The ability to build a road through BCP and the definition of "existing" transportation infrastructure (*Mr. Long explained the legal position that only hardened existing roads, not a line on a plan somewhere, constitutes an "existing" road; nevertheless, members were still concerned about new roads being build without a referendum*);
 - The ability of Utilities to construct buildings and other infrastructure without BCC approval (*County staff assured members that the BCC must approve all construction of this nature in BCP*);
 - Utilities' ability to use Utilities purchased property in BCP for whatever they deemed necessary for utilities purposes and if a legal mechanism existed to transfer those to general government (*Mr. Long explained that Utilities' purchased properties could be legally swapped for "cash" as an example*);
 - Assurances that dollars received from Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) be used to directly benefit properties of critical concern, including land acquisition;
 - And in particular with Section 2-147(c) and their strong recommendation to only allow the ordinance to be repealed or amended by referendum.
- The Forum voted on several motions.
 1. Revise 2-147(b)(4): *the transfer of development rights from properties of critical concern where it is deemed in the best interest of the public as determined by the board of county commissioners; provided that any sums received for the transfer of development rights under this provision shall be used exclusively for the environmental benefit of properties the property of critical concern, including land acquisition. ~~that development rights were transferred from;~~*

Motion was made by Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck, seconded by Ms. Darden Rice. Motion passed: Yes=12, No=0

2. Keep 2-147(b)(1) unchanged:
Motion made by Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck, seconded by Ms. Cathy Harrelson. Motion failed: Yes=2, No=9 (1 abstained)
3. Alternate motion to #2 above, revise 2-147(b)(1): *the sale, transfer, conveyance or dedication of any interest in any property of critical concern for transportation infrastructure improvements, with minimal environmental impact and where no other practicable alternative exists, to transportation facilities that existed as of the effective date of this code section;*
Motion made by Ms. Cathy Harrelson, seconded by Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck. Motion passed: Yes=11, No=0
4. Revise 2-147(c): *This code section may be repealed or amended by a referendum ~~supermajority vote of the board of county commissioners.~~*
Motion made by Ms. Cathy Harrelson, seconded by Ms. Darden Rice. Motion failed: Yes=2, No=9
5. Alternate motion to #4 above, leave 2-147(c) unchanged: *This code section may be repealed only by a supermajority vote of the board of county commissioners.*
Motion withdrew by Ann Paul.
6. Alternate motion to #4 above: *The ESF supports a change to 2-147(c) that would require a referendum to amend or repeal the ordinance and a unanimous vote by the board of county commissioners.*
Motion made by Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck, seconded by Ms. Ann Paul. Motion passed: Yes=11, No=0
7. *The ESF supports the ordinance with our recommended revisions and thanks staff and the county commissioners for their efforts to protect our lands of critical concern.*
Motion made by Ms. Ann Paul, seconded by Dr. Gabriel Vargo. Motion passed: Yes=10, No=0
8. *If the revision to 2-147(c) is not approved by the board of county commissioners, then the ESF recommends that a charter amendment be pursued.*
Motion made by Ms. Barbara Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Ray Wunderlick. Motion failed: Yes=5, No=6 (Voting members

were tied 5-5. As provided in the Bylaws, the presiding chair cast the deciding vote)

VII. Agenda Item VII. Env. Lands & Parks Protection Subcommittee Report on BCP Boundaries and Land Use

- Ms. Barbara Hoffman summarized the subcommittee report explaining how the subcommittee defined P/RM-1, P/RM-2, and P/RM-3 land uses for purposes of discussion:
 - P/RM-1: No “wellfield development” allowed;
 - P/RM-2: Wellfield development allowed but only minimal (underground pipes, small sheds constructed over wellheads, etc.); and
 - P/RM-3: Any wellfield development allowed including vertical structures, as needed.

She then presented their recommendations with reference to a marked-up aerial photo (attached) of the BCP boundaries north of Old Keystone Road. After clarification during the meeting, the following Subcommittee recommendations were made for Forum member consideration:

1. For the land area in the northeastern section of the site north of Keystone Road (outlined in blue in the aerial photo), change the P/RM-3 status to P/RM-2.
2. The rectangular piece of land (located just north of the scrubbing plant) proposed to be P/RM-1, change the western boundary so it follows more of a natural contour. Designate the remaining southeastern two-thirds portion of the rectangle (as delineated on the attached aerial photo) P/RM-2, and the northwestern one-third of the rectangle P/RM-3.
3. Keep the sites of the scrubbing plant and chemical storage plants within the preserve boundary (shown on the aerial in red along the southern Preserve border) since the land in these parcels can be restored after the buildings are scrapped.
4. Designate the remainder of the land area in the Preserve as shown on the attached aerial (between Old Keystone Road and Trinity Blvd.) as P/RM-2, except for the area in yellow (designated P/RM-3) and parcels outlined in red.

The Forum then voted on two motions.

1. *The Forum accepts the recommendations to the County Administrator as presented in the report by the subcommittee and refined during the ESF meeting*

Motion was made by Ms. Ann Paul, seconded by Dr. Randy Runnels. Motion passed: Yes=10, No=0

2. *As another recommendation to the subcommittee report, the Forum encourages Pinellas County Utilities to convert as much P/RM-3 land to P/RM-2 as possible as plans progress.*

Motion was made by Ms. Ann Paul, seconded by Dr. Randy Runnels. Motion passed: Yes=9, No=1

VIII. Future Meeting:

- Ms. Holly Greening reminded the Forum the next scheduled meeting will be July 12, 2007 at Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, starting at 3:30 p.m.

IX. Public Comments:

- Mr. Sid Crawford submitted a written comment asking to add a second revision to the May 3 minutes. The May 3 minutes indicated a Shell Key Preserve field trip would be scheduled for May 21, 2007, departing at 9:00 a.m. from Merry Pier, Pass-a-Grille. He would like it recorded that the schedule and itinerary were changed without public notice. *Note: since the field trip change occurred after the May 3 Forum meeting and the Forum did not approve this comment for the May 3 minutes, Mr. Crawford's comment was not added to the approved May 3, 2007 minutes.* Mr. Crawford also proposed that the Forum should reevaluate where public comments are scheduled in the agenda. He suggested there be a public comment time allotted for each of the agenda items instead of only at the end of the meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

