

Environmental Science Forum (ESF)
Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center
Thursday, July 12, 2007
3:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by Forum at August 9, 2007 Meeting

Attendees:

1.	Holly Greening	Forum Member, Co-Chair
2.	Darden Rice	Forum Member, Co-Chair
3.	Howard Rutherford	Forum Member
4.	Tom Muntz	Forum Member
5.	Walt Hoskins	Alternate for Barbara Hoffman
6.	Mark Mueller	Forum Member
7.	Dr. Gabriel Virgo	Forum Member
8.	Ann Paul	Forum Member
9.	Cathy Harrelson	Forum Member
10.	Dr. Randy Runnels	Forum Member
11.	Jake Stowers	Forum Member
12.	Doug Robison	Forum Member
13.	William Davis	Pinellas County Environmental Management
14.	Andy Squires	Pinellas County Environmental Management
15.	Dr. H. Bruce Rinker	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
16.	Pamela Leisure	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
17.	Lynn Smith	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
18.	Jewel White Cole	Pinellas County Attorney
19.	Barbara Oklesen	Pinellas County Attorney
20.	Sidney Crawford	Citizen
21.	Tayn Harvey	Citizen

Handouts: Environmental Science Forum (ESF) Agenda, Draft ESF meeting minutes, Ordinance No. 07-__, Project Timeline For Pinellas County Environmental and Park Lands revision, Shell Key Preserve Management Plan suggested revisions from stakeholders, Shell Key Preserve Management Plan Update Timeline.

I. Welcome and Introductions:

- Co-Chair Ms. Darden Rice welcomed Forum members and the public, reminding the public that they may address agenda items by completing the appropriate forms.

II. Additional Agenda Items:

- The following future agenda items were requested by Forum Members:

1. The Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan when appropriate for discussion.
2. Discussion of helicopter traffic over the Preserves and the likely impact on wildlife.
3. Report on ESF membership vacancies.
4. Fertilizer Ordinance.

III. Approval of June 7, 2007 Meeting Minutes:

- Mr. Tom Muntz would like to add “Alternate for Tom Muntz” after Mr. David Bruzek’s name under attendees.
- Motion to accept the minutes with changes was made by Mr. Jake Stowers and seconded by Mr. Howard Rutherford. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Nominations for Co-Chairs:

- Co-Chair Ms. Darden Rice and Ms. Holly Greening called for nominations for Science and Policy Co-Chairs for the coming year.
- Nominees for Science Co-Chairs
 - a. Mr. Doug Robinson - nominated by Ms. Holly Greening
 - b. Dr. Randy Runnels - nominated by Mr. Mark Mueller (Dr. Runnels declined due to time restraints)
 - c. Ms. Barbara Hoffman - nominated by Mr. Walt Hoskins
 - d. Dr. Gabriel Vargo - nominated by Ms. Cathy Harrelson (Dr. Vargo declined due to time restraints)
 - e. Mr. Ray Wunderlich - nominated by Dr. Gabriel Vargo
- Nominees for Policy Co-Chairs
 - a. Ms. Barbara Hoffman – as previously nominated for the Science Co-Chair, Mr. Jake Stowers noted she should be a Policy Co-Chair nominee.
 - b. Ms. Ann Paul - nominated by Dr. Gabriel Vargo (Ms Paul respectfully declined due to time restraints)
 - c. Ms. Cathy Harrelson - nominated by Ms. Darden Rice
- Co-Chair Ms. Greening informed the Forum that the vote will take place, using Roberts Rules, during the next scheduled ESF meeting. Ms. Greening also requested that each nominee provide a biographical sketch about themselves.

In summary, the Science Co-Chair nominees are Doug Robison and Ray Wunderlich. The Policy Co-Chair nominees are Cathy Harrelson and Barbara Hoffman.

V. Board of County Commission Brooker Creek Preserve Workshop (Mr. Will Davis):

- Mr. Davis provided a review of the June 21st BCC workshop. He reiterated there were two topics;

1. The development of an agreement for recreational fields with the School Board and Pinellas County at the SE corner of Keystone and East Lake Road is moving forward. A parking issue remains with the existing ball fields and the County is considering an option to create an overflow parking area east of the existing facility on a narrow 5-acre parcel not within the Preserve.
2. Changes in Ordinance No. 07-_ were discussed. A supermajority vote was added as well as a referendum vote. A public hearing is being advertised for August 7, 2007.

A lengthy discussion followed by Forum Members, Mr. Davis, and County attorney Ms. Jewel Cole concerning the Forum's suggested language that was left out of parts of the Ordinance proposal. Ms. Ann Paul made a motion that the ESF support the Ordinance as written with the clarification that ESF's intent is to protect and manage properties of critical concern from infrastructure development as originally stated in the Forum's recommendations for 2-147(b)(1) as documented in the June 7, 2007 ESF minutes. Further, she requested that this clarification be placed into the public record. Motion was seconded by Dr. Randy Runnels.

- **Public Comments:**

A citizen expressed his concern that transportation could include not just highways but pipelines also. He was impressed by the large amount of Forum suggestions already included in the Ordinance proposal.

- Co-Chairs called for a vote of the motion on the table. Vote passed unanimously.

VI. Shell Key Management Plan Update (Ms. Pam Leasure):

- Ms. Leasure provided a brief update on the Shell Key Preserve Management Plan. She spoke about a list of suggested revisions from several stakeholders' meetings. She also mentioned that the Plan is going through final revisions before distribution and then suggested an ESF subcommittee be formed to review the newest draft before the next scheduled ESF meeting. The subcommittee will present its findings at that time along with recommendations from the Forum at the August 9th meeting. Ms. Leasure also presented an updated Shell Key Preserve Management Timeline.

- Co-Chair Ms. Greening asked for volunteers for this subcommittee. The following members volunteered:

Ms. Cathy Harrelson - Chair
Ms. Ann Paul
Mr. Jake Stowers
Dr. Randy Runnels
Dr. Gabriel Vargo

VII. Introduction to Wall Springs Tract Project (Mr. Paul Cozzie):

- Mr. Paul Cozzie was unable to attend.

VIII. Next Meeting Agenda Topics (Tentative):

- Co-Chair Ms. Greening asked for feedback from the Forum for next month's agenda. Members suggested the following topics:
 1. Report on helicopter traffic around/through Preserves
 2. Co-Chair election
 3. Shell Key Preserve Management Plan Comments/Recommendations
 4. Presentation/timeline for Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan
 5. Report on vacancies for Forum Membership
 6. Report on budget reductions, particularly on the LIMA team, including its functions and adverse effects if dissolved
 7. Report on budget reductions, particularly on the Department of Environmental Management and its Environmental Lands Division

- **Public Comments:**

No public comments were offered.

IX. Future Meetings:

- Co-Chair Ms. Greening announced the next ESF meeting for August 9, 2007 at Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm.
- Mr. Andy Squires asked the Forum Members if they wished to return to Pinellas County Extension in Largo for meetings or remain at Weedon Island Preserve. The majority of members expressed they would like to continue meeting at Weedon Island Preserve.

X. Public Comments:

No public comments were offered.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Tom Muntz and seconded by Dr. Randy Runnels. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.