

**Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee**  
Appointed by the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation (NBCPR)  
Meeting of November 28, 2005, 7:00 p.m., at the Mims-Scottsmoor Library

Committee Members Present

Lorene Shafer, Chairman  
Lee Bird  
Douglas Chamberlain  
Robert Robbins  
Thelma Roper  
Gigi Henkel, NBCPR Liaison

Committee Members Absent

Patti Franzetta–Excused  
Andy Root–Excused

Staff Present

Mike Knight, Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Manager  
Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager  
Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Lorene Shafer called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

As noted above. Absentees excused.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

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**Motion by Lee Bird, seconded by Douglas Chamberlain, to approve the minutes of September 19, 2005.**

**AYE: Bird, Chamberlain, Robbins, Roper, Shafer**

**NAY: None**

**Carried 5-0**

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IV. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Lane announced Mike Knight, manager for the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program would be giving a presentation on properties owned by EEL and Miami Corp. Mr. Lane also reported Chuck Nelson called just before meeting, saying he had a family emergency. Mr. Nelson wanted the committee to know he had been in contact with Condev Homes and the property that is adjacent to Parrish Park-Scottsmoor is a piece that will be very doable. Acquisition will need to be worked out.

Mike Knight displayed from his computer the following:

- Hearst Indian Mound property off Holder Road.
- South Lake conservation area off Dairy Road (blue).
- Buck Lake Conservation area north of 46 and west of I-95 (green), about 9,000 acres.
- Miami Corp, FEC railway proposed as a greenway trail, a significant amount of private ownership, as well as a mitigation bank through Miami Corp (pink).
- Properties along edge of lagoon (green) have been purchased and others are under negotiation (yellow border) by EEL with landowners.
- Area in NE identified as a potential corridor, but no direct identification of the properties (yellow).
- Some land is undeveloped from State Blueway project down to Dairy (yellow) with the potential of some acquisitions

- Area west of Scottsmoor Landing was purchased by EEL which the State reimbursed EEL and the State holds the title. It is managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (green).

Thelma Roper and Mike Knight discussed properties displayed on the screen. Mr. Knight explained the best definition of proposed and not proposed under EEL is generally the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) gets involved in the approval of any projects being proposed. It hasn't reached that stage yet.

Chairman Shafer inquired if there was any definition of the number of acres from Condev. Mr. Lane stated he didn't think the discussion got that far, but 17 acres was discussed previously and it was a positive conversation.

Lee Bird stated the committee had identified their #1 choice as adjacent to Parrish Park-Scottsmoor. He thought the reason Mr. Knight was present was to show some possible already owned County properties that could be considered as a backup choice. Disturbed areas were mentioned.

Mr. Knight gave an example of disturbance to EEL which could be a site where 50 acres of prime scrub was desired and the landowner was only willing to sell the whole 100 acres, half of which was orange grove. EEL looks at the level of restoration required to bring it back into a natural habitat and that is weighed against the worth. If restoration is too expensive, there might be some opportunities to use it for something else. Currently there isn't anything with that level of disturbance. What has been purchased to date primarily would be considered sensitive habitat and if any disturbance, it would probably be in the form of access roads and small areas.

In response to Mr. Knight's inquiry, Mr. Bird stated the committee is looking for about 15 acres in the Mims-Scottsmoor area, north of Grantline. Chairman Shafer noted both a community center and library are needed.

Mr. Knight reported the only things currently acquired would be the sliver along the northeast of Buck Lake. Staff will take a look at the parcel for significant disturbance he might not be aware of. The committee noted that is too far south and too far west. Mr. Bird stated it needs to be along US 1, with easy access for the public.

George Newman noted U.S. Fish & Wildlife has signs along the river down to Carter Road, where Lionel turns into Hammock and makes the jog.

Mr. Pine stated the committee was supposed to be getting a list of all the properties EEL owns. He would like to look at them for disturbance and photograph it for the committee. Mr. Knight stated he was not aware that was his task. Mr. Pine stated Mr. Knight had not made a definitive statement about any of the properties. Robert Robbins agreed.

Mr. Knight asked Mr. Pine what he wants. Mr. Robbins stated the committee needs some hard answers.

Mr. Knight stated he was not asked to come with a list of EEL properties that could be available for development. His understanding was he was asked to give a perspective to the Equestrian Committee what the EEL program is looking at and what has been acquired by the program. Mr. Knight wasn't asked to be at this meeting.

Mr. Robbins asked if Mr. Knight can attend the next meeting with the answers. Mr. Knight said he needed to know exactly what the question is which he understands as, does the EEL program has land that has been acquired that could be available for development of a community center? Mr. Knight stated the answer to that would be no.

Mr. Knight asked what the next question is. Lee Bird asked if he could identify the properties owned by EELS north of Grantline to the County line. Mr. Knight stated there is no property owned by EEL and the County in that area. The only exception is a piece of marsh owned by the County which was the old Sloan property which came through mitigation or a lawsuit.

Mr. Pine noted the County has lost the ability to use the land purchased with EEL money that is now owned by the State.

Mr. Morehead noted EELS purchased 156 acres for \$1.2 million which EEL sold to the state so they could get \$600,000 to buy more land. The second choice would be to take the west part of the 156 acres back which is all highlands, no wetlands, and ask the State of Florida to give the 15 acres back to EEL, and EEL give the State something else for it. Mr. Morehead stated it was taken originally because it had Tampa Verbain on it. Mr. Knight stated that goes directly against what the EEL program was intended to do, which is to protect habitat. Mr. Morehead stated "you guys" aren't flexible. It belongs to the people, and if the people need it, go back and take it back from the State. Mr. Morehead stated he is sure the State would be very cooperative if approached.

Chairman Shafer inquired if Dixie is too far east. Mr. Bird agreed it is a tad remote, compared to the first choice. Thelma Roper suggested it could be the second or third choice. Committee members discussed other properties in the area display on the screen.

Mr. Knight asked if he answered the questions. Mr. Bird stated, not really, and asked if there are any publicly owned properties north of Grantline Road to the County line which is what the committee would like a list of. Mr. Knight stated EEL would not have that. Mr. Knight pointed out on the screen the only two parcels acquired by EEL and the areas where negotiations are beginning with landowners now. Mr. Bird asked if the yellow areas are wish lists, to which Mr. Knight agreed. Thelma Roper stated so EEL is in negotiation with those along the river and those out west are Miami Corp and possible conservation land.

Mr. Bird asked about something in the north corner which Mr. Knight explained is 50 acres of proposed conservation easement of old orange grove that a landowner is proposing to donate to the County.

Private ownership of various parcels was discussed.

Mr. Pine asked if the County was considering buying land on which the federal government has already done habitat restoration through private grants. Mr. Knight stated EEL is not proposing to buy it; they are proposing to donate the easement to the County. Mr. Pine asked what the County gains by taking the easement. Mr. Knight responded it would be added protection of the site as an addition to a potential wildlife corridor. Mr. Pine questioned if they then get additional help on grants. Mr. Knight, responded not that he is aware of. It was noted the maintenance is handled by the landowner.

Chairman Shafer thanked Mr. Knight.

Mr. Lane inquired if Mr. Knight needs to come to the next meeting. Mr. Shafer stated he can pass any information to Mr. Lane.

Gigi Henkel inquired if a list needs to be provided by staff of all publicly-owned property. Mr. Lane remembered Marsha Cantrell had brought a list several meetings prior. Mr. Bird thought it was not an up-to-date list, and that Mr. Nelson said there were a lot of properties the County owns either through unpaid taxes, etc., that does not appear on the list. They were to get a more complete up-to-date list with properties owned by County, which the committee agreed should be from Grantline north to the County line. Discussion ensued on unpaid taxes.

Mr. Knight reported EEL is working on occasion with the Stormwater Utility Department to identify lands for cooperative partnership and suggested the same for the committee. EEL keeps Ron Jones in the loop when looking for property. Thelma Roper asked if Stormwater doesn't have some large retention areas up there.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

Potential Properties—Mr. Pine stated the committee needs at some point to get a correct map from the County. If the Internet is available in the library, the committee could view parcels on the Property Appraisers website. It would allow the committee to see if parcels connect. Terry Lane stated staff will find out if access is available.

Ms. Roper asked if Chuck Nelson gave any indication if he had asked Mr. Gardner about coming to the meeting. Mr. Lane reported they would not be able to attend this meeting. He can attend a meeting in January and hopefully staff can get everything ready for the meeting. Mr. Lane will get with the library for Internet access. Mr. Bird asked if Mr. Nelson indicated parcel size. Mr. Lane noted the discussion at one of the previous meetings was 17 acres. Mr. Nelson only reported it was a positive discussion for acquisition adjacent to Parrish Park-Scottsmeer. Mr. Bird noted that still doesn't preclude the committee from having a secondary plan.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

#### VII. PUBLIC INPUT

George Newman commented there is a big area up there, so it might be advisable or helpful to show the County or Commissioner that the community has more interest than what is present. He suggested showing more community support. Chairman Shafer stated there would probably be a larger audience if a specific presentation had been advertised with something to choose from. Mr. Bird stated more would be present if Mr. Gardner was here. Posting notices and spreading the word within the community was discussed.

#### VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

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**Motion by Lee Bird, seconded by Thelma Roper, to meet January 30, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.**

**AYE: Bird, Chamberlain, Robbins, Roper, Shafer**

**NAY: None**

**Carried 5-0**

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Mr. Bird asked staff if there are any names in line if there is a vacancy on the committee. Mr. Lane stated vacancies will need to be advertised and others interested contacted. Mr. Newman restated the need to get the word out to the community. Discussion ensued.

#### IX. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. at the motion by Lee Bird.

Chairman Shafer thanked staff for supporting the committee. Mr. Lane thanked Mike Knight.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorene Shafer, Chairman

jbi