

Minutes of meeting of Natural Area Advisory Committee: 20 March 2002

Wednesday, 3:45 to 4:45pm, Room 1014 Entomology/Nematology building. Members present were Mark Clark, Deb DiPietro, Alison Fox, Donald Graetz, Shane Hill, Susan Jacobson, Kaoru Kitajima, Carol Stiles, and Tom Walker (chair). Others present were Buford Davis (Landscape Architect for Cultural Complex master plan) and Erick Smith (UF Urban Forester).

1. Academic pavilion

Tom Walker has a March 27 appointment with CALS Dean Jimmy Cheek to discuss funding possibilities.

2. Revisions of NAAC operating policies

Those present gave unanimous final approval to the revisions in NAAC operating policies that were initially approved at the 12 Oct 2001 meeting.

3. Fiscal matters

A certified accounting of NATL's general funds from 11 Jan 2001 through 14 Mar 2002 showed a beginning balance of \$353.31 and an ending balance of \$321.89. Receipts were \$1467.94 and expenses were \$1499.36. Items costing more than \$100 were 1000 color SEEP brochures (\$781.03), seven signs (\$165), and a chain saw, (\$128).

The Committee approved spending \$188.58 for 2.5 gallons of Garlon 3A herbicide to help kill laurel oaks in NATL's upland pine.

4. Poppy mallow plots

The Committee approved the concept of planting poppy mallows in as many as six 1.5x1.5 m plots in NATL. The purpose of the plantings is to learn more about the ecological requirements of poppy mallow. During the discussion, the Chair assured the members that the plots were not intended to mitigate possible damage to the poppy mallows north of the DPI compound and that success of any of the plantings would not require that the Committee let the plants continue. Before any poppy mallows are planted in NATL, the Committee will be given the specifics of what is planned and the context. Once suggested changes are incorporated in the plan, the Committee will vote whether to approve or disapprove.

5. Membership and chair for 2002-2003

No new group was identified as needing representation. NAAC will have two new members for 2002-2003 as replacements of current members. Alison Fox, who serves because she is the current chair of the Lakes, Vegetation, and Landscaping Committee, will be replaced by the new LVL chair; and Benjamin Skulnick, who represents the Wetlands Club, will be replaced by whomever the Club designates. Michael Bond, representative of the Ethnoecology Society, will be asked if the Ethnoecology Society still wants to be represented on NAAC.

In the absence of a willing replacement, Tom Walker agreed to continue as chair for another year.

6. Cultural Complex master plan

Buford Davis showed the Committee the conceptual master plan for the Cultural Complex/Cultural Plaza and explained how it relates to NATL. He pointed out that the plan includes a much-needed parking area for buses and that this area is near the site of "Natural Area Park" just north of SEEP. The proximity of the buses plus improved pedestrian pathways would encourage the use of Natural Area Park (and of NATL) by school groups coming by bus to the Cultural Complex. He also pointed out that the plan includes a direct, pedestrian-friendly entrance to NATL from Powell Hall and the main area of the Cultural Complex. This part of the plan envisions access to the delivery areas of Powell Hall being from 34th Street rather than from Hull Road via the Park-and-Ride lot and the road at the rear of the Phillips Center. A motion was made that the Natural Area Advisory Committee go on record as favoring an improved pedestrian way from the Cultural Complex into NATL (passing between Powell Hall and the Phillips Center). The discussion of the motion included concern over what route the new service drive would take in relation to the DPI compound and the patch of poppy mallows just north of DPI. The motion was approved by a 5 to 1 vote with 2 abstentions.

Tom Walker noted that semi-trailers from productions at Performing Arts are sometimes parked in the area immediately north of SEEP that is denoted as Natural Area Park on the master plan. Erick Smith said that PPD might install barriers to prevent vehicles from entering the area. Mark Clark noted that the Committee should be given a say as to the type of barriers to be installed.