



WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2014 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chamber

Phillis Rosetti-Mercer, Chairman
Marcia Chesnicka, Vice-Chairman
Doug Nicholson
Randy Loehe

Janet Mulligan
Constance Welch
Judith Simpson
Lora M. Klein

Mayor Jim Farley, Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Phillis Rosetti-Mercer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Boardmembers Present: Phillis Rosetti-Mercer, Chair, Marcia Chesnicka, Vice Chair, Doug Nicholson, Randy Loehe, Janet Mulligan, Constance Welch, Judith Simpson, Lora Klein

Liaison Present: Jim Farley, Mayor

Staff Present: Jackie Gorman, Planning Director, Elizabeth McBride, Deputy Clerk

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the February 4, 2014 agenda was made by Randy Loehe; seconded by Connie Welch.

Motion carried unanimously

5. Approval of Minutes - **January 7, 2014**

Motion to approve the January 7, 2014 minutes was made by Judith Simpson; seconded by Janet Mulligan.

Motion carried unanimously

6. Old Business

• **Florida Friendly Yards – Marcia**

Marcia Chesnicka provided a draft of the Chronicle article asking the group for input. Ms. Chesnicka will add a request for photos. Janet Mulligan suggested an explanation to introduce the topic and why it is being done. The Board thought it was a good start. It will be posted in a Sunday edition, possibly March, of the *Chronicle* in the Homefront section.

- **Fertilizer – Marcia (letter to groups)**

Ms. Chesnicka read into the record a letter she composed to send to all water concerned group urging them to write to legislators to ban the sale of fertilizer in Citrus County.

Mayor Farley added that he met with Commissioner JJ Kenney informing Mr. Kenney that it was a Board recommendation that the County adopt the same ordinance. Mr. Kenney expressed interest in this matter and asked for a copy of the Crystal River ordinance and a copy of the Hernando County ordinance. Mayor Farley suggested holding off on sending the letters until he hears back from Commissioner Kenney.

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer complimented Ms. Chesnicka on an excellent letter.

- **Grants**

Connie Welch commented that she was unable to find anything and asked for qualification on what grants are needed. Ms. Rosetti-Mercer suggested assigning a specific area for each Boardmember to search. Ms. Rosetti-Mercer clarified that the board would be passing information along to particular groups that are in need of funds. As an example Ms. Rosetti-Mercer found a small grant for education which she brought to Adam Thomas when meeting with him to ask if the county would coop on the boaters brochure. The county is going to pursue this grant. If the county receives the grant we will have coop on our brochures. Connie Welch will look into grants related to conserving water/over pumping. Randy Loche provided some information from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Coastal Partnership Initiative Florida and Florida Coastal Management Program that appeared to be relevant to encouraging tourism, and coastal front communities, geared toward municipalities. The grants were in the range of \$20 to \$60K and \$60 to \$200K. Jackie Gorman will review this material to determine viability and report to the Board.

- **Citrus Hernando Meeting**

Randy Loehe provided an overview of the Citrus Hernando Meeting. Mark Folkerson, SWFMD, reported on the Withlacoochee Watershed Initiative. Mr. Folkerson explained the model that has been developed to determine how rainfall impacts flood elevation levels; this model can be helpful in identifying the impact of restoration changes etc. Many citizens from Yankeetown and Inglis expressed their concerns that the river is neglected, wildlife has diminished and they want more action for improvement.

Presentation by Veronica Krau, SWFWMD, regarding Three Sisters Springs Wetland Treatment Project; treating an additional hundred acres of water prior to discharge; adding ten acres of wetland habitat that would include marsh areas and a transitional area that will be completed in 2015; currently in the permitting process. Other current projects are Three Sisters Springs Erosion Control Project; Hunter Springs Park Restoration in conjunction with Duke Energy. There is a new plan that involves putting vegetation on the water side of a seawall to avoid flood elevation concerns. They have requested 20 water quality restoration projects in 2015 for a total of \$18.4M; four of those projects are related to Kings Bay.

The final presentation was concerned with the completion of the Chassawitzka Springs Restoration project which involved dredging and septic removal. There was an engineer present

who thought the project was good for archeology and cleaning up; he didn't think dredging improved water quality and lygnbya.

- ***Homosassa River Alliance – Marcia Chesnicka***

Nothing to report was unable to attend

- ***Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve – Randy***

Mr. Loehe reported that Jamie Latendre, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, presented information about the two preserves, St. Martins and Big Bend Seagrass Aquatic Preserve. She outlined the water quality monitoring they do, which includes the mouth of Crystal River and the south end of Kings Bay. The ten years of monitoring showed no significant increase in salinity in the bay.

The other project presented was the Oyster Shell Project. Discarded oyster shells are used for shoreline restoration.

The final topic covered Seagrass monitoring. Seagrass is being lost in large amounts, the equivalent of one football field per hour, along the coast. One of the significant reasons for this is props, it takes out a section about two feet wide.

The next meeting is February 12th at 1p.m. - it will be about seagrass. Janet Mulligan and Connie Welch will try to go.

- ***Friends of Crystal River***

Connie Welch reported that John Moran was the presenter. Ms. Welch circulated a copy of his presentation which compared springs from 30 years ago to the present time. Senator Charlie Dean agreed to allow Mr. Moran to bring his slide show to the legislators in Tallahassee.

7. New Business

- ***META – Phyllis***

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer attended the META meeting. Andrew Goudy and Ivan Vicente said that within a year something will have to do with the inside of Three Sisters Springs or they may be faced with lawsuits from environmental groups concerned with protecting the manatees. There are too many people in the water with the manatees.

- ***City Council Water Workshop – Phyllis***

Presentation is attached; it covers the location of SWFWMD monitoring stations, salinity, Three Sisters Springs wetland project, Fort Island Trail sewer project. Fertilizer uses and manage recreation and manatee use were also addressed. The more recreation and manatees there are the more water quality will be impacted creating sediment in the bay. Long term maintenance is recommended, possible dredging, in contrast to the SWFWMD engineer's opinion.

- ***(SWFWMD presentation copied and in Board Members box)***

- **Updated Member Contact List**

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer asked members to verify the information on master membership list for accuracy.

- **Update Implementation Plan (update)**

- 1. Golf Course Pledge** – On hold

- 2. Water Bottling Plant/Water Withdrawal** – Present to Planning Commission

- 3. Boundary Changes** – Done

- 4. Three Sisters Springs Management Plan, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods** – Add Do One Thing instead of Florida Yards & Neighborhoods – Marcia

Public Relations Program – In progress

Gather marketing materials – In progress

- 5. Cruising Guide** - Done

- 6. Scallop Brochures Summer** - Requested that the brochures be delivered by the end of May 2014, changes will be included so no inserts will be needed. Ms. Rosetti-Mercer will pick up brochures - remove J. Gorman from committee

- 7. Waterways Management Around Three Sisters Springs** – Presentation 2/7/14 to City Council

- 8. Three Sisters Springs Working Group** – 1st Phase Done

- 9. Grants Opportunities – On going**

Add to plan – send grants to Jackie to identify if city can use them and discuss at WAB meeting.

- **Website Update** - Update WAB information on website (i.e. mission & strategies) - Ms. Rosetti-Mercer

- **Crystal River Alliance** – Tracy Colson promoted doing a Florida Friendly Garden in the park next to City Hall. Andy Houston, City Manager, suggested that Kings Bay Park near the new bandshell would be a better location. If Ms. Colson isn't interested in doing the project at Kings Bay Park, maybe the Crystal River Garden Club would be interested. Ms. Rosetti-Mercer will contact Ms. Colson.

- **Summer Boaters Brochures Educational Materials**

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer has asked the county for financial help with the brochures and provided grant information to obtain funding waiting for outcome of grant application. Jackie Gorman was a tremendous help working on the brochures, probably wouldn't have been done without her help.

The priority is to provide laminated copies for the rental boats and possibly coop with TDC.

8. Citizen Input

Jay Chesnicka, suggested the Mall as a project to improve landscaping at entrances. 3rd Street Pier for manatee watching create more places to view manatees from land to include planters.

9. Communications

None

10. Liaison Comments

Mayor Farley Complimented Ms. Rosetti-Mercer, the new Chairperson, on doing an excellent job; showed leadership and was well organized.

11. Staff Comments

Ms. Gorman recognized Mary Morgan who is being considered for appointment to the WAB.

12. Board Member Comments

Ms. Mulligan added that Ms. Rosetti-Mercer did a great job.

13. Chairman's Comments

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer thanked everyone for the confidence placed in her. Complimented Janet Mulligan on the leadership and direction she brought to this board.

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer asked the Board to think about what can be done with trailers during scalloping season.

14. Adjournment

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

