



## WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

City Hall Council Chamber  
Tuesday, January 7, 2014  
5:30 PM

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1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

**Boardmembers Present:** Phillis Rosetti Mercer, Constance Welsh, Judith Simpson, Janet Mulligan, Chairperson, Ray Loehe, Marcia Chesnicka, Vice Chairperson

**Boardmembers Absent:** Doug Nicholson, Lora Klein

**Staff Members Present:** Jackie Gorman, Planning Director; Jim Farley, Mayor; Elizabeth McBride, Deputy Clerk

- **Elect Chairman**

Janet Mulligan can no longer handle the chairperson responsibilities effective immediately due to personal matters. Ms. Mulligan thanked everyone for all the support during her tenure.

Marcia Chesnicka made the motion to nominate Phillis Rosetti-Mercer to the chairperson position; seconded by Connie Welch. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer initially declined the nomination stating that she is comfortable in her current role. A discussion followed encouraging Ms. Rosetti-Mercer to take on the chair. At the conclusion of the discussion Ms. Rosetti-Mercer agreed to give it a try.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Phillis Rosetti-Mercer; seconded by Janet Mulligan. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes - **December 3, 2013**

Motion to approve the minutes from December 3, 2013 was made by Randy Loehe; seconded by Phillis Rosetti-Mercer.

6. Old Business

- **Three Sister Springs Working Group – Council Workshop**

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer reported that there will be a Council Workshop sometime in February. Asked Mayor Farley for input about what information council expects from the Waterfronts Board. Mayor Farley responded that Council would want to know what the Board is working on and how

the projects are progressing. Ms. Rosetti confirmed that the focus of the workshop would be Three Sisters Spring and the outcome of the Working Group. Mayor confirmed that the entire board is welcome to attend the workshop; although attendance is not required. Ms. Mulligan asked if members of the Working Group should attend. Mr. Farley stated that everyone is welcome.

- **One Rake at a Time TV Show**

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer reported that the show that she and Marcia Chesnicka appeared on, on channel 16 WYKE, will air every Sunday for a month. The discussion covered Florida Friendly Yards; what the city is doing with reclaimed water going to Duke Energy. Overall it was a good experience.

## 7. New Business

- **Letter of Resignation Andy Freund**

Jackie Gorman explained that the City Clerk has confirmed that there are currently no applications on file. All referrals are welcome. In the past our best resource for candidates has been referrals.

- **Public Relations: Chronicle contact for Florida Friendly Yards; City's New Website; City's Water Bill; Facebook; Manatee Festival**

Ms. Mulligan reported that Brad Battista is the Managing Editor and will be our contact. The Chronicle will run whatever information we pass along, including photos. Ms. Chesnicka suggested a format that would be eye catching and then add onto it with each monthly edition allowing for repetition of the same topics. Plan to start in February. Ms. Mulligan suggested starting with an over view explaining Do One Thing and ask for ideas in February and do photo(s) in March. It will be in the Homefront Section in Sunday's paper. Ms. Mulligan will be the contact with the paper/Brad Battista.

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer is planning to send an email to neighbors on waterway issues; she would like to include a note asking for input/photos regarding Florida Friendly Yards. The Board agreed it was a good idea.

- **Aquatic Preserve Meeting – January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer reviewed the various meetings pertaining to water issues.

- Withlacoochee Preserve has a meeting on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will be given by Jamie LaTindrea (sp?), Environmental Specialist, Florida Department of Environmental Protection on Resource Management and partnerships associated with local waters including water quality and sea grass program/monitoring. Good for us to go to get information on these types of topics. Ms. Rosetti-Mercer requested that someone attend in her place if there is interest. Randy Loehe will go to the meetings.
- Homosassa River Alliance next meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Civic Club. Ms. Chesnicka will attend.
- Florida Conservation Coalition, St. John's Water Management District has received a water use application from the Niagara Bottling Co. for 910 gallons of water per day. Ms. Chesnicka will follow this on-line.
- Citrus - Hernando Waterway Group – This group provides information/reports about their goals to clean up lakes and rivers. Mr. Loehe will follow this.

- Friends of Crystal River – The annual meeting and spring seminar is on January 26<sup>th</sup> in Homosassa. Ms. Mulligan will follow this meeting.

Ivan, Florida Fish & Wildlife, reported that Three Sisters Springs will be closed today and tomorrow because of the cold weather.

Ivan didn't distribute the laminated brochures to all the dive shops. All brochures will be distributed next week to the remaining dive shops. West Marine has asked for 50 more brochures.

- **Available Grants**

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer suggested that all boardmembers should look for grants. Mr. Loehe's wife has several years grant writing experience; he will see if Mrs. Loehe will help out with grants. Grants for educational purposes or for One Rake or anything that has to do with water issues are needed. If a grant possibility is located, email that grant to Jackie for distribution to the entire board. Ms. Gorman added that there is a list on line of available grants that are for municipalities. Ms. Gorman will provide the site location. Ms. Gorman added that another good resource for grant information is Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (WRPC.com) located in Ocala

- **Fertilizer**

Ms. Mulligan reported that Hernando Co. passed a law restricting fast release fertilizer. Ms. Mulligan suggested encouraging Citrus Co. to do the same. It could be effective if all the organizations that focus on water quality could ban together to support banning fertilizer use. Ms. Chesnicka will work on a letter that could be sent to water focused groups to encourage them to contact officials regarding banning fertilizer use.

## 8. Citizen Input

Mr. Chesnicka congratulated Phillis on her appointment to the Chairperson position. She will do a great job.

The big question that will be posed by the public at the Three Sisters Springs Workshop will be "when will it be open to the public". Be prepared to provide some information regarding this issue.

Mayor Farley stated that the lack of funding is the problem. The road and visitors center are not funded at this point. The discussion continued about what could be done to allow some form of access to the property.

## 9. Communications

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer reported that the Save Crystal River group is applying for a permit from DEP to go forward with the mechanical harvesting. Last Friday there was a demo for DEP officials about how the mechanical harvesting is done. At this point things are looking more hopeful.

## 10. Liaison Comments – Mayor Farley

Mr. Farley welcomed Randy Loehe to the Waterfronts Board. He thanked Janet Mulligan for a job well done as Chairperson and added that she brought clear leadership to the board. He stated that he is sure that Ms. Rosetti-Mercer will do the same. Mayor Farley offered to help Ms. Rosetti-Mercer in how to conduct a meeting.

Mayor Farley stated that there are no answers on Three Sister Springs opening, it comes down to funding. Mayor Farley has proposed to Council that the money that was donated to the City from

Duke Energy for economic development be used to build a visitor's center for Three Sisters Springs. Although it was not voted on all Council members agreed. Ms. Rosetti-Mercer asked when the visitor's center is done will they continue to have a center at Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Mayor Farley responded that it would continue as it had in the past; each center will serve a totally different purpose.

#### 11. Staff Comments

Ms. Gorman reviewed that she had brought before this board an ordinance regulating water bottling facilities in Crystal River and the board made a motion to bring it to City Council. Because it was a change to the city's land development code it had to go to the Planning Commission first.

The Planning Commission suggested instead requiring a special use permit that would establish certain criteria for this use. Ms. Gorman has drafted a special use ordinance that will go to the Planning Commission this coming Thursday night. For those who have an interest in this come to the Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Gorman will send the Planning Commission packet.

The Scudder project is moving forward; there are still issues with the site plan that are being worked out. They are being very cooperative.

Has a list of all tour guides with special use permit none of whom have a business license with Crystal River. This has an impact on city property for parking. They need to have a business site and provide parking for customers.

#### 12 Board Member Comments

Ms. Rosetti-Mercer asked if it the Waterfronts Board should have a booth at the Manatee Festival to be able to hand out Do One Thing information and other related material. Ms. Gorman added that the city will have a booth and will pass out information. Ms. Rosetti-Mercer and Judy Simpson will help.

Ms. Mulligan asked about website. Elizabeth McBride responded that it is underway in the very preliminary stages. Ms. McBride confirmed that Leslie Bollin handles Facebook and Tweet. Ms. McBride handles the website at this point in time.

#### 13 Chairman's Comments

#### 14 Adjournment

Ms. Chesnicka adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.



Waterfront Advisory Board