

Turnbull Creek Task Force
January 27, 2020

The Minutes from December 16th meeting were approved.

Brian Fields reviewed the Commission approvals for the rankings of lands that could be purchased for conservation. The Commission accepted the ranking from the Task Force, but added Property # 98. Voluntary conservation acquisition can move forward after the purchases are made from the grant funds. All other funds that have been borrowed must be used for purchases.

Staff reviewed the parcel behind the Publix Shopping Center on SR 44 and how its retention flows into the canal system. Staff also reviewed how new docks in the canal are approved. The Task Force suggested that formal regulations on the type of boats that can be used in the canal be made by the Commission.

The Task Force discussed how to legally protect the canal system in perpetuity as well as how maintenance will also need to be sustained.

The Task Force asked for clarification on the overall value of the canal system especially as it relates to drainage and protecting adjacent areas from flooding. New swales and ditches and other infrastructure may need to be added to the system, so maximum drainage can be achieved. Some previous drainage may have been restricted by subsequent development.

Next steps will be the following:

1. Use two groups to appraise values of the ranked properties to be purchased. A third group (not yet hired) will negotiate on behalf of the City for the purchase of each property.
2. Staff will make recommendations to the Task Force on how each property can be used by the public.
3. Storm water evolutions for the properties and the Creek as a whole will be detailed. Water flow is of critical importance.
4. Maintenance of the canal system will be evaluated especially to remove the many restrictions and invasive species.
5. A wildlife corridor will be evaluated for SR 44.
6. Ways to remove Brazilian Pepper will be evaluated.
7. Staff will look for ideas on how to acquire new grants.

A public comment was received that suggested a surcharge on new development near the canal to help cover ongoing maintenance costs.

The next Task Force meeting will be scheduled for about 60 days to give staff and the appraisal time to complete their tasks.