



**Turnbull Creek Land Preservation
Monday, March 6, 2023 at 3:00 PM
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, the regular meeting of the Turnbull Creek Land Preservation of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, was held on Monday, March 6, 2023, at the City Commission Chambers, 214 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168.

Chair Donna Athearn called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Present: Member Robert Werner, Member Lamont Ingalls, Chair Donna Athearn

Excused Absence: Vice Chair Chip Weston, Member Cathleen Planson

Also present were City Engineer Kyle Fegley, Assistant City Manager Ronald Neibert, and Assistant City Clerk Sharon Harding.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A.** Consider the adoption of the meeting minutes from the regular meeting held on March 6, 2023.

Motion:

Member Ingalls moved to adopt the March 6, 2023, Turnbull Creek Land Preservation minutes as submitted. Member Werner seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No action.

4. NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

4A. Committee Member Update

No action.

4B. Update on grant funding

Chair Athearn provided an update regarding the Emergency Watershed Protection Program and the USDA grant funding.

Assistant City Manager Neibert stated the application was received and a site visit would need to be scheduled.

A discussion ensued regarding the grant funding.

Chair Athearn questioned the USDA approvals from Brian Zielinski. She stated he needed notice to be present at the next meeting in April.

A discussion ensued regarding the cleaning of the canal.

Member Werner suggested asking for volunteers to clean the canal.

Mr. Neibert stated he would speak with the City Manager and the legal department to produce a waiver for the volunteers.

A discussion ensued regarding the cleaning of Turnbull Creek and the flow of the water.

Member Werner questioned cleaning under the railroad truss.

A discussion ensued regarding cleaning under the railroad truss.

Chair Athearn shared Brian Zielinski's information with the board.

Chair Athearn commented on the Aquatic Opening Passageway Program.

Chair Athearn questioned if Volusia County Road and Bridges cleaned out the area by Corbin Park Road and their part of the creek.

4C. Update on Land Acquisitions Activities

Chair Athearn questioned the four parcels that were interested in selling.

Mr. Neibert stated there were five parcels. He explained that the city was waiting for the RFQ appraisal contract to be approved by the City Commission.

Mr. Neibert queried if the committee was interested in evaluating properties for purchase, even though the properties do not have access to Turnbull Creek but fall within the range of influence. He stated that he would provide information regarding the parcels.

Chair Athearn questioned the Utilities Commission's watershed easement.

Chair Athearn questioned promoting the accomplishments of the Turnbull Creek Committee.

Mr. Neibert commented on Mr. Veski's promotion of the committee's accomplishments.

A discussion ensued about promoting the committee and selling the land on the Creek.

Chair Athearn reviewed a follow-up meeting with Irene Beckham, a former City Manager of New Smyrna Beach. She shared a map of the city.

A discussion ensued regarding the map shared from the meeting with Ms. Beckham.

4D. Discussion

Chair Athearn questioned if the City applied for the Aquatic Opening Passage Way Program.

Mr. Neibert stated the city had not applied for the program.

Chair Athearn questioned if Volusia County widened the ditch on Mission Road.

Mr. Neibert stated that Maintenance Operations was working with Volusia County on the project.

A discussion ensued regarding the cleaning of Turnbull Creek.

Member Ingalls questioned the park impact fees and adding a mileage fee for the parks.

Mr. Neibert explained that the city had park impact fees and clarified the use of the impact fees. He clarified that the park maintenance came from the general fund.

Member Werner questioned whether a parcel across from Quail Hollow could be used as a walking trail.

Mr. Neibert stated he would evaluate the Park's Master Plan to see if a walking trail was included in the plan.

Member Ingalls stated that a clean-up would take some time.

Chair Athearn questioned the grant-writing position with the City of New Smyrna Beach.

Mr. Neibert stated that the employment process was under way.

5. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Member Werner questioned if the city was working with North Florida Land and Trust.

Mr. Neibert explained that the city was no longer working with North Florida Land and Trust.

Chair Athearn questioned the term of the Turnbull Creek Land Committee.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Neibert confirmed the next meeting dates for the committee to be held on April 3, 2023 and July 3, 2023.

7. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, Chair Athearn adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.