

Turnbull Creek Land Preservation Committee

February 19, 2024

Video and agenda can be found [here](#)

Present: Chair Donna Athearn, Lamont W. Ingalls, William Robitzsch, Chip Weston. Absent: Robert Werner. Minutes of the July 24 meeting were approved.

City Engineer Kyle Fegley briefed the committee on the dredging project. This will be done with a USDA grant with approvals from DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is concerned about the depth of dredging, so approvals for permits are running late and since the grant expires March 15th, an extension has been requested. The project is divided into two phases: North of SR 44 and South of SR 44. Contracts were given to Bayside Dredging in Tampa, who will do the actual work and Young Bear Environmental in Edgewater who will help with the environmental aspect of it.

The south portion has two or three access sites where the equipment can enter, and debris removed. The turbidity of the water will be controlled via containment structure which will have a series of weirs (small dams) which lets the water flow over it and be treated before it is discharged back into the canal. Staff is waiting for the DEP permit. The pre-consultant meeting will be in April and the project should be complete by September. The north portion is more complicated because the waterway is deemed "water of the State" because it is navigable. This portion is running nine months to a year behind schedule because so many different entities are involved in permitting. The canal will not be widened but overhanging growth will be cleared, and some invasive species removed.

Item B- Septic to Sewer was pulled as the presenter couldn't attend the meeting.

Regarding the FLU for the Turnbull Creek preservation area, one property was brought up for purchase which is the site of a proposed single residential home development on the west side of Corbin Park Road. However, it is designated County and is part of the Turnbull Creek extension (it is actually a 6' ditch that was put in approximately 20 years ago to help with flooding) which isn't part of the original TC system. After examination of the scant data they had, it was decided that the item will be tabled for now until they get more information about said property even though it was too far from the main canal to be relevant to the bond issue. After the discussion, it was suggested if other ranked parcels cannot be purchased, environmental easements should be considered to complete the projection of a contiguous canal system.

The Committee discussed a number of potential grants as well as further research for grants. This includes potential funding from the national parks system and State Environmental Protection grants. Aside from environmental grants, cultural, educational, and historic grants should be researched. It was suggested that a bird watching area could be constructed with a bird blind that could attract thousands of bird watchers. Legal added that the purchased properties couldn't be used for income such as agricultural initiatives. Creating educational signage and kiosks on some of the accessible property was considered. The committee will ask the City Commission to consider setting up a workshop with potential partners such as Spruce Creek, Marine Discovery and others.